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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly *[Havana International]* 1
Commentary Views Speech *[Havana TV]* 1
Malmierca, Pickering Verbal 'Confrontation' *[Havana TV]* 2
Foreign Minister Attends Group of 77 Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 2
Castro Inaugurates Varadero Airport 25 Sep *[Havana Radio]* 2
Airline Flights to U.S. 'Temporarily Suspended' *[Madrid EFE]* 12
Guyana's Hamilton Green Pays Official Visit 13
Tours Hospital *[Havana TV]* 13
Meets With Castro *[Havana Radio]* 13
Tours Sports Headquarters *[Havana TV]* 13
Foreign Trade Minister Meets With Kim Il-song *[Havana Radio]* 13

Haiti

Politicians on Strike, 'Foreign Interference' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13
Radio Commentary Discusses Current Situation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14

MEXICO

Prospects for Bush-Salinas Meeting Reviewed *[Mexico City TV]* 17
Opposition Leaders Killed in Auto Accident *[Hamburg DPA]* 17
Attorney General on Results of Antidrug Effort *[THE NEWS 27 Sep]* 17
Traffickers Threaten Attorney General *[AFP]* 18

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

U.S. Congressmen Meet Government, Opposition *[San Salvador Radio]* 19
President Cristiani's Visit to UK 'Advantageous' *[San Salvador TV]* 19
Government, Rebels Hold Continuing Dialogue 19
'Total Amnesty' Offered *[AFP]* 19
Recommendations for Commission *[San Salvador Radio]* 20
FMLN Issues Communique *[San Salvador Radio]* 20
Soldiers Disperse Demonstrators in Capital *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
FMLN Radio Summarizes Sep Rebel Actions *[Radio Venceremos]* 21

Guatemala

Cerezo Pleased With Results of Trip to UN *[ACAN]* 22
Deputy Minister Says Terrorists Neutralized *[PRENSA LIBRE 28 Sep]* 22
Government Rules Out Resurgence of Death Squads *[LA HORA 27 Sep]* 22
Army Spokesman Discusses Current Issues *[EL GRAFICO 27 Sep]* 23
Kidnapped Europeans Reportedly Released Unharmed *[ACAN]* 23
URNG Rebels Propose 'Dialogue Process' *[AFP]* 23
Controversy Over Exiled Leaders Continues 24
AEU Leaders Report Situation *[AFP]* 24
Student Claims Refuted *[PRENSA LIBRE 27 Sep]* 25

Church Withdraws From 'Front Against Violence' *[EL GRAFICO 28 Sep]* 25
Groups Demand Protection of Human Rights *[Guatemala City TV]* 25
Correction to Cerezo UN Speech on 'Threats' 26

Honduras

Human Rights Spokesman Meets UN Representative *[TIEMPO 26 Sep]* 26
Minister To Head Government Mission to Cuba *[LA PRENSA 27 Sep]* 26

Nicaragua

Exchange of Ambassadors Proposed With U.S. *[AFP]* 26
Strong Support Given to Registration Campaign 27
OAS Official Arrives *[Hamburg DPA]* 27
Baena Soares on CIAV *[BARRICADA 30 Sep]* 27
Ortega Promotes Registration *[Managua Radio]* 28
Citizens Urged To Register *[Managua Radio]* 28
Opposition Notes Irregularities *[Hamburg DPA]* 29
CSE To Enforce Media Law on Election Matters *[LA PRENSA 28 Sep]* 29
Borge Denounces Charges of Clandestine Jails *[Managua Radio]* 29
Nine Parties Register Candidates by Deadline *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 30
UNO Denies Charge of Receiving U.S. Funds *[AFP]* 31
Designates Cesar Candidate *[AFP]* 31
PPSC's Diaz Discusses Resignation From UNO *[Managua Radio]* 31
Managua Notes Closing of Miami Contra Office *[BARRICADA 30 Sep]* 32
Minister Reports Contra Attacks in Matagalpa *[Managua Radio]* 32

Panama

Reportage on Arrest of Opposition Leader 33
Arias Calderon Arrested *[Panama City Radio]* 33
Ford on Arias Arrest *[Madrid EFE]* 33
Endara: Desperation Proven *[ACAN]* 34
Coverage of Endara's Hunger Strike, Publicity 34
U.S. Officials Visit Leader *[ACAN]* 34
Arias Calderon Fears for Endara *[ACAN]* 35
Incident at Center Reported *[ACAN]* 35
Ford Visits Rome, Vatican; Meets With Andreotti *[Panama City Radio]* 36
U.S. Soldiers Reportedly Fire on Police Station *[Panama City Radio]* 36
FDP Terms Attack 'Provocation' *[Panama City Radio]* 36
One Killed in U.S. Army Helicopter Crash *[Panama City TV]* 37
Noriega Addresses Corregimiento Representatives *[Panama City Radio]* 37
Rodriguez on Corregimiento Role *[Panama City Radio]* 38
Rodriguez Marks Canal Treaty 10th Anniversary *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 1 Oct]* 40
Government Abolishes Constitutional Statute *[Panama City TV]* 41
Columnist Details Rodriguez Schedule at UN *[CRITICA 30 Sep]* 41
Sweden Reportedly Not To Accredit Ambassador *[Panama City Radio]* 41
Minister Gonzalez Asks IMF, World Bank for Help *[Panama City Radio]* 41
Security Reinforced at Costa Rican Border *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 28 Sep]* 42
Attorney General Probes Disobedience Campaign *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 29 Sep]* 42
Planning Ministry Issues Economic Recovery Plan *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 25 Sep]* 42
Construction Activity Declines 95 Percent *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 27 Sep]* 43
Commerce Ministry Denies Fuel Supply Cut *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 28 Sep]* 43
Commander on Contras, New U.S. General *[Panama City Radio]* 44
U.S. Embassy Users Pay Electric Bills *[Panama City Radio]* 44
Columnist Reports Terrorist Activities *[LA REPUBLICA 26 Sep]* 44
Station Owner Reacts to Radio Interference *[Panama City Radio]* 45

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

President Concludes Activities in U.S., Returns 48
Visit to USSR Possible *[TELAM]* 48
Menem Meets Shevardnadze *[DYN]* 48
Comments on Meeting *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 48
Requests U.S. Policy Review *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 48
U.S. Embargo Lifted *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 49
Menem Returns From U.S. *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 49
Comments on U.S. Action *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 49
Kohan on U.S. Decision *[TELAM]* 50
Cavallo Sees Change in UK Falklands Position *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 50
Fernandez Named Central Bank Vice President *[TELAM]* 51

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Addresses UN General Assembly *[La Paz Radio]* 51
Returns From United Nations *[La Paz Radio]* 53
Minister Terms Bennett Plan 'Comforting' *[PRESENCIA 20 Sep]* 53
Editorial Views Bennett Plan, 'Minisummit' *[PRESENCIA 23 Sep]* 53
Interior Minister Views Coca Replacement Program *[PRESENCIA 24 Sep]* 54
COB Congress Elects New Executives *[Madrid EFE]* 54

Brazil

U.S. Advisers in Colombia Cause Concern *[Madrid EFE]* 55
Finance Minister Rules Out New Economic Package *[Brasilia Radio]* 55
Soviet Nuclear Experts To Arrive in November *[VEJA 27 Sep]* 55
SNI Predicts 'New Coup Attempt' in Suriname *[VEJA 27 Sep]* 55
Trade Promotion Accord Signed With ROK *[Brasilia Radio]* 56
Inflation Hits New Record in September *[Brasilia Radio]* 56
Deputy on Internal Debt, Hyperinflation *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 28 Sep]* 56
Biopsy on Sarney Reveals Benign Dermatitis *[Brasilia Radio]* 57

Chile

Errazuriz Meets With Japanese Foreign Minister *[Santiago Radio]* 57
Bomb Damages Labor Leader's House *[Santiago Radio]* 57
Carabineros Thwart Bomb Attempt in Atacama *[Santiago Radio]* 57
Carabinero Killed in Attack in Santiago *[Madrid EFE]* 57
Government Reaches 'Stand-by' Agreement With IMF *[EL MERCURIO 16 Sep]* 58
PCCh Pledges To Defend Aylwin's Government *[EL MERCURIO 16 Sep]* 58
* Results of Vote on Constitution Analyzed *[CAUCE 7 Aug]* 58

Colombia

Barco's U.S. Visit Attracts Favorable Approval 60
Londono Discusses Trip *[Bogota Radio]* 60
Official Comments on Results *[Bogota TV]* 61
Londono Describes UN Support *[Bogota TV]* 61
Senator Comments on New U.S. Policy on Exports *[Bogota Radio]* 63
Barco Confirms Resignation of Minister Marulanda *[Bogota TV]* 63
Trade Council Eliminates Protectionist Barriers *[EL TIEMPO 24 Sep]* 64
Continuing Coverage of Country's Antidrug Effort 64
Acting Minister Announces Measures *[Bogota Radio]* 64
Editorial on DEA Involvement *[EL TIEMPO 25 Sep]* 64
DAS Director Presents Report *[Bogota TV]* 65
Drug Council Returns Aircraft *[Bogota TV]* 65
Paper Reveals Foreign Mercenaries *[AFP]* 65

Ecuadoreans Catch Drug Leader *[AFP]* 66
Suspect Extradited To Country *[Bogota TV]* 66
Zuniga Appeal Rejected *[Hamburg DPA]* 66
Mayor on Antidrug Measures *[Bogota TV]* 67
No Casualties From Attacks *[Bogota Radio]* 67
Two Explosions Rock Cali, Bogota *[AFP]* 68
Terrorist Wave Affects Cities *[Bogota Radio]* 68
Sep Bombings Total 54 *[Bogota TV]* 68
Government Initiates Talks With EPL Rebels *[Bogota TV]* 69
ELN Demands Ransom for Spaniard's Release *[Madrid EFE]* 69
Government, M-19 Reach Mutual Agreement 70
Issue Joint Communique *[EL TIEMPO 27 Sep]* 70
Statement on Peace Talks *[EL TIEMPO 27 Sep]* 70
Two M-19 Members 'Arrested' *[Bogota TV]* 72

Paraguay

Rodriguez Says U.S. To Lift Trade Restrictions *[ABC COLOR 29 Sep]* 72
Argana on Loan, Drugs, Meeting With Baker *[ABC COLOR 29 Sep]* 72

Cuba

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

PA2909175489 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 89

["Excerpts" of speech by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmerica Peoli at the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September—recorded]

[Text] Disarmament treaties have been reached between the USSR and the United States. These agreements have undoubtedly opened the path to lowering tension, turning back the arms race, and removing the threat of danger. We cannot forget the influence the Soviet Union's peace policy had on this. This is a hope for peace that is still weak, the initial steps of which have not yet been consolidated. The nuclear arsenal is virtually intact. The United States and some of its allies hope to modernize it and state that the NATO strategy must be maintained. The U.S. military budget is not decreasing. That is why we must not deceive ourselves or foster the false hope that tension has disappeared from the international arena. The road ahead for us, though difficult, gives us some cause for hope, unless the U.S. Goverment allows itself to be dragged along by the dangerous and cherished idea that socialism can be dismembered from inside and takes the path of arrogance and high-handedness.

Cuba strongly supports the policy of peace and will do everything within its power to contribute toward making irreversible this process that is of the utmost importance to mankind. Moreover, the fundamental idea that prevails in the U.S. stand is that peace between major powers and detente between blocs will enable it to continue with its policy of pressure and threats on revolutionary, progressive, and independent Third World countries.

We cannot imagine, much less accept, that while the United States is holding talks and engaging in negotiations with the Soviet Union—seeking agreements to serve the cause of disarmament, international security, and peace—it is simultaneously keeping its policy of hostile actions against independent and progressive countries in different parts of the world. The clearest example of the arrogant way in which the empire imagines peace with small countries—peace, but only on its terms, no doubt—is the current situation in Panama. As Cuba has stated to date, the constant provocations and campaigns orchestrated against Panama day and night, rather than being directed at a single person or fact, are designed to foster a climate that will enable the United States to not comply with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties that will give Panama full sovereignty over the Canal and entail the dismantling U.S. military bases in the Canal Zone at the end of this century.

The ninth summit meeting of the Nonaligned Movement voiced its concern over the increase of U.S. troops in Panama and the constant maneuvers being carried out in Panamanian territory, creating a climate of tension that may cause a serious conflict. The heads of state and government reaffirmed in Belgrade their solidarity with the people of Panama in their struggle to consolidate independence, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of their country. They asked for full respect of the letter and the spirit of the 1977 Treaties on the Panama Canal and rejected any action that may constitute a violation of or change in the existence and validity of the treaties. They called on the United States to abstain from adopting any measure or action that may prevent full implementation of the treaties. They deplored the coersive economic measures imposed against the Republic of Panama and demanded that they be stopped immediately.

Commentary Views Speech

FL2909180289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The concept of peace was once again among the principal topics Cuba presented at the UN General Assembly. This time, Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmiera was the one responsible for reiterating our position on what we understand as peace and detente. Malmierca's speech was logical and coherent and demonstrated a sense of justice which exposed those who practice a policy of double standards in this area.

To Cuba, peace cannot only exist between superpowers. To Cuba, the process of detente cannot only be accessible to the powerful. In rejecting these ideas which prevail principally in the United States, Cuba understands that in order for peace to be dignified, just, and long-lasting, it should include the rich and the poor. Cuba also understands that the process of detente should benefit everyone equally.

While a certain amount of detente has been developing between the superpowers, what has happened in the underdeveloped world? If we look at 1987, and the current situation has not changed substantially, we can see that 36 wars were waged. Twenty-two of these wars cost the lives of more than 2 million people. All these conflicts, without exception, were waged in the Third World. Almost all the dead were from Third World Countries.

Last April, a UN report said that it is possible that there have never been as many armed conflicts as there are today. This is not and cannot be a true situation for peace. Many of these conflicts are even promoted by the same Western powers that talk about peace and detente. Take any sensitive area in the world and you will see that the United States is primarily behind it.

In 1984 alone, underdeveloped countries designated $42 per person to military spending. That is twice the amount that is now designated for education and health. Can there be any greater crime than this? This is a consequence of the imperialist concept of peace and of its policy of servitude, exploitation, blackmail, hostility,

and modern colonialism. Such a peace, as Foreign Minister Malmierca said, is only the peace of hawks.

Malmierca, Pickering Verbal 'Confrontation'

FL2909113989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Cuba and the United States had a verbal confrontation during debates at the UN General Assembly. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca denounced the United States for the role the Bush administration plays in almost all the problems that are of interest to the United Nations. This caused a strong protest from U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

Malmierca blamed the United States for pressuring Panama, supporting the Nicaraguan opposition after financing and arming the Contras for years, and for attempting to impose a military solution in Afghanistan. He also accused Washington of siding with Israel in its war against the Arab world and of wanting to convert Puerto Rico into its 51st state. In addition, Malmierca condemned the United States for its hostility toward Cuba.

For his part, Pickering reiterated accusations against Cuba and Panama and he defended the plan to hold a plebiscite in Puerto Rico.

In response, Cuban representative Abelardo Moreno noted that the United Nations itself considers Puerto Rico to be a colonial case that must be resolved.

Foreign Minister Attends Group of 77 Meeting

FL2909210189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2003 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] It is an unpostponable necessity that the process of detente and dialogue in politics be extended to the economic sphere. This was said at the United Nations by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca during a meeting of the Group of 77.

The Cuban minister also said that unequal trade, protectionism, the foreign debt, and the reverse transfer of resources to the North are part of the tensions that aggravate and threaten social and political stability.

A press release that was circulated in the Untied Nations states that, during the meeting, the 128 developing countries that compose the organization agreed that a special UN session be held on cooperation and economy of the Third World. The document notes the need to include in the UN strategy for the next 10 years measures that will take into consideration the requirements of poor states.

Castro Inaugurates Varadero Airport 25 Sep

FL2909141289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 26 Sep 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro during the inauguration of the Juan Gualberto Gomez International Airport in Varadero, Matanzas on 25 September—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: Today is not a day for long speeches, but we are not going to be sad because it is raining. Over these years, we have learned to appreciate the value of water. Rain will always be preferred over drought. We know this helps the province's agriculture and also the ground water-table, and satisfies in part our water needs. In a way, it compensates for the dry months of May and June.

Less than a year ago, in Havana we inaugurated an expansion to the Miguel Henriquez Hospital. This is a great installation built in record time with excellent quality. When the project was being completed at the end of last year, some of its forces was already moving to Matanzas Province to build this airport. Only 9 months have gone by, and we are inaugurating the airport today. When was the decision made to speed up this project? As it was explained here, the airport had been under construction for some time, especially the earthwork. Part of the runway had been built but the main parts had to be built, especially the air terminal. We faced the fact that the construction process was speeding up in Varadero. We also faced the fact that after carefully analyzing the peninsula's oil drilling matters, we arrived at the conclusion that this drilling should be suspended because oil drilling in the Varadero peninsula was incompatible with the development of tourism. Our calculations revealed that the value of the oil that could be extracted from the peninsula was insignificant compared to the income the country could have through tourism at these marvelous beaches [Castro corrects himself] or at that marvelous beach nature gave us which is famous worldwide.

We asked for information, for figures. It was explained to us that according to geological studies, the peninsula could produce some 10,000 tons, [Castro corrects himself] some 100,000 tons a year of this Varadero-type oil, which appears to be very useful as a raw material for roof waterproofing. It is a heavy oil. We estimated the value it has in the world market, which amounts to around $4 million. On the other hand, we saw that Varadero could produce 100 times more than that in the future, a minimum of 100 times more than that [Castro repeats himself]. I am sure that when Varadero is totally developed it will produce some 150 times more than what oil was going to produce. So, the decision was made.

At the same time, we considered that the area surrounding Varadero, in firm ground, is the most important oil deposit being explored [Castro corrects himself] being exploited. So, these things had to be reconciled. We had to analyze how we could exploit the basin in a rational manner. The rational exploitation of that basin—that is, the drilling of the necessary number of wells for adequate exploitation of the basin—was not

possible if work were not [as heard] done at the site of the present airport. You know how drilling is; it is not vertical. Often it is at an angle. One can drill a kilometer away from where the deposit is located—that is, we can get part of the oil in the peninsula from a distance, in the closest areas of the peninsula. Looking into all these things during a meeting held with the basic industry, with the oil enterprises, and considering other factors, we agreed to speed up these projects—that is, we had another reason to speed up the construction of the airport.

A meeting was held on 23 September of last year. There was not even a plan for the airport. We already had the experience of the Jose Marti Airport. We already knew about the possibility of getting the necessary panels to build an air terminal quickly. This equipment, these components, these structures are imported. They are truly evidence of the advances in modern science and technology. There are enterprises—in this case, enterprises from Canada and other countries—that helped by using computers and a great deal of experience. These enterprises are not only capable of designing and planning but also of manufacturing all the components to build an installation of this kind in a few months with adequate material for this type of construction.

At that time, it was the end of September; we were approaching winter. Winter is characterized, among other things, by the freezing of certain maritime routes in Canada. The problem was to figure out if there were enough time to order the components for this building, to ship them, and install them. We made all the calculations and plans; the order was placed immediately. In particular, we selected a workforce that would be able to carry out this construction feat. We set 25 September 1989 as the date the airport would be ready. Therefore, this was a great challenge. The winter tourist season begins precisely on this date. The largest number of foreign tourists visits our country during this time. I repeat, all these factors determined that 25 September of this year would be the date to have the airport ready.

This plan has been completed with mathematical precision, with the precision of a good watch. This did not happen by chance. I think this is the result of the new times, new concepts, new construction organization, new work spirit. I think this is the result of the organization of construction workers into brigades, and especially of the organization of construction workers into contingents. We had already seen what the workers of the Sixth Congress contingent were capable of doing. We did not doubt their ability to fulfill this plan.

The entire Sixth Congress Contingent is not here. Part of it came here to work on this project. Another part stayed in the capital to build installations, especially, a very sophisticated installation: the velodrome for the Pan-American Games. As a matter of fact, they have also made a great deal of progress on that project. They have pledged to finish the velodrome by 26 July of next year—that is, [applause] that is, [Castro repeats himself] almost a year before the beginning of the Pan-American Games. So, our athletes will be able to train in the new velodrome.

This project requires special care and special quality. Contingents do quality work. However, quality is even more necessary in this type of project. So, I hope they will be able to reconcile things. Anyway, life will tell. If it is not possible to complete it by that date, we still have a year to complete it. In this case, guaranteeing quality is even more important than completely finishing it by 26 July. This effort is also a symbol of the times, a symbol of the rectification process, and of our country's potential to develop, to do many things, do them well, and do them quickly.

We now have a new international airport, which is not the only one that is going to be built over the next few years. Construction was not easy here. We found the terrain to be rocky. The earth augers or wagon drills, as you prefer to call them, were inadequate to drill the quantity of rock that should have been drilled every day. This is how the idea came about to organize contests between drilling experts.

There is a figure somewhere indicating I don't know how many wagon drills were gathered here. [unidentified speaker's remarks indistinct] Sixty-eight? But, is that the total number or does that mean there were 68 wagon drills in a single day? The largest number of wagon drills here... [unidentified speaker interrupts, remarks indistinct] 22 days. [as heard] I am glad. I was saying that if you need 68 wagon drills at one time.... [Castro changes thought] Wagon drills are our headache. Every day, when a brigade or contingent is organized, we have to figure out how many wagon drills are in stock, how many we are building, and how many we are going to receive. They are needed in the construction of dams, roads, canal systems, and practically in all projects.

Anyway, 22 wagon drills is a large number. I remember we assigned some of these from our stock. We didn't give them all that they asked for. If there is something that the Construction Ministry cadres have not overcome yet, it is in the asking area. There are two arts. The art of asking and the art of giving. Construction cadres have become experts in the art of asking. I have found it necessary—as administrator of the equipment centralized stock—to learn something about the art of giving. [laughter] Every time I see a list I know beforehand what they truly need. I have become a specializist in this. I know what a work team needs to build a dam, a highway, and many other things in construction.

Today, I had a list. I had it in my pocket. I was reading it. I believe it was from a contingent. What is the contingent building the dam called? The dam brigade? [unidentified speaker says: "Jose Antonio Echevarria"] Jose Antonio Echevarria, the one building the dam. It started doing the earthwork. They should be around here. Is this not true? At least the contingent that got the banner was around here. No? They didn't receive a

banner. The contingent wasn't even invited? [unidentified speaker's remarks indistinct] It had received the banner before. Luis, [not further identified] they were not invited today?

They asked for some equipment. They have 20 (Cama) 55-11 trucks. They asked for five more. I already know that they don't need them. [laughter] They had received six tractor-scrapers. They do need those. They asked for an extra loader. I know they are not going to need it because they are not going to receive the five trucks. [laughter] They asked for a compressor and a wagon drill. I believe they need them. They asked for a pneumatic compactor. I believe they need at least two more judging from the amount of earth they are moving. They are hurting for some things more than others because there are fewer of some things. They were asking for two FD-20's—they asked for a specific model and everything [laughter]—and a DZ-109. We need to think about this very carefully. They may need more bulldozers but not as many as three. They also asked for two water pipes for compression according to the material they are working on. It appears as though they need them. There are a few other things they are asking for, such as a jeep and things like that. [laughter] It does not hurt as much as a 220-horsepower bulldozer.

Here, when they asked for wagon drills, do you think they asked for just a few? They asked for something like 10 or 12, nobody knows how many, almost as many as the ones we had. I don't know if we gave them four. This was a few months ago. However, the ones they did receive got their imaginations going. They organized their contests and things and, as you see, they completed the airport.

I have thought about asking them what they are going to do with the four wagon drills they received. I believe they don't need to drill rocks as much as others. Is this not so? I may take the wagon drills back from them. [laughter] Another art is to tell them: Now that you don't need it, send it back—at least, to know where they sent it. Now Luis is saying something. Right, to the highway. All right. The causeway is also going to need some help. I know that part of the stone that was taken from here is going to be used for the causeway. It is a magnificent thing. They will need fewer wagon drills.

What I wanted to note was that the work was difficult here because of the soil. It was necessary to move hundreds of thousand of cubic meters of stone. I am saying that work is hard, tedious, and tense where hundreds of thousand of cubic meters of stone have to be moved. None of these circumstances prevented the contingent from completing the project on the set date and with great quality.

They were not the only ones to work on this air terminal. Many other organizations cooperated, such as the Aeronautics Institute, people from the electric power enterprise, and various organizations of the province. Of course, there are many workers that I have not mentioned yet who also cooperated, such as the workers of the earthwork brigades. Traditionally, these laborers are good construction workers. They participated—I remember—in the construction of the Havana-Sancti Spiritu Highway. They worked quickly, they worked tenaciously, they were also efficient. They were very productive, they had great spirit. They could be counted on to go anywhere in the country. The entire brigade would travel. They went to Moa if they had to go to Moa. If they had to do earthwork for a sugar mill in Camaguey they went there. They went anywhere.

They moved to Matanzas Province when their cooperation was needed in the development of the Varadero projects. Their equipment is very old. They know how to take care of it. Once we visited Varadero to attend a meeting with the construction workers and they received some reinforcements. This is the good thing about having a brigade and keeping a brigade. A brigade can have 10-year-old equipment. It can have 20 trucks. Perhaps at a given time they receive reinforcements of five new trucks, or a new bulldozer or loader, and the brigade can recover its strength. The brigade can be reinforced if it exists and is organized.

A work force that becomes abstract cannot be reinforced. A force that is dispersed in 20 places as unfortunately happened between 1975 and 1985 when those strange ideas were introduced in the Construction Ministry and in the country's economy in general.... [Castro changes thought] Brigades disappeared. Nobody knows how much damage the disappearance of brigades did. They had been created by the revolution. It was a concept that was introduced in the seventies and even before the seventies to boost construction. The organization of brigades made possible the construction of many roads, many dams, cattle programs, all kinds of schools, hundreds of schools in the countryside, a great number of dairies, and other types of installations.

There came a time when brigades were organized into enterprises. They combined all the equipment, like mixing salt and [Castro rephrases] oil and vinegar. There used to be specialized brigades for the construction of schools, dams, roads, highways, canals, etc. They were specialized brigades.

[Text] When they were organized into enterprises, some of them built railroads, dams, canals, roads. They combined workers and they usually also combined the equipment. A large amount of equipment was divided: one bulldozer was sent here another one there; three trucks here and five there. Specialization came to an end. Brigades were dismantled. They disappeared. When this happened it was impossible to even know where the equipment was and what they were doing with it.

This is why, when the rectification process began, one of the first things we asked the Construction Ministry to do was to reorganize and to organize construction brigades once more. Brigades are not incompatible with the

existence of an enterprise. Nowadays, the Blas Roca Contingent is a great enterprise. It is a new kind of enterprise. It is an enterprise without bureaucracy and with a minimum of direct workers. There were times in which those enterprises that were created had more people working in offices than on the project. The people working on a project are important. People in administration are also important if there is an adequate proportion. The Blas Roca Contingent now has 23 brigades. It builds highways, railroads, cold storage houses, canals, rural pre-university schools, tourist hotels. Creating an enterprise with a minimum of bureaucracy or without a bureaucracy was completely possible. I do not call the people working in an administrative activity a bureaucracy. A bureaucracy is an excess of people working in that kind of activity—two, three, or four times as many people as needed.

The Blas Roca Contingent is organized into brigades. There are brigades for the construction of schools. A certain number of men and resources are assigned to them. There are brigades for the construction of cold storage houses. There is a brigade building the Coiba Hotel. There are brigades building railroads. All of this has been organized in 2 years. The Blas Roca Contingent is going to be 2 years old. This does not mean that the team has to be at the same place 100 percent of the time. There is a tractor-scrapers brigade. The entire brigade is not in the same place. Three tractor-scrapers could be in one place. Six could be working on an approach to a bridge and six others could be working in the construction of a railroad line where the terrain is adequate.

Some equipment is not given to the brigades. It remains in the contingent, such as the case of a 30-ton crane that can be used in various places. The equipment is centralized. If the contingent has one, two, or three hand trucks, they are centralized in the contingent. If there are a number of cement trucks or carts to carry material, they are not assigned to a brigade. That equipment should be centralized at the higher level unit, which is the contingent. They are moved around. There could be a time in which a brigade has 20 trucks, it is completing its work, there is not a place to store the 20 trucks, and 10 of those trucks can reinforce another brigade. The brigade may get the 10 trucks but these trucks still belong to the other brigade. The men, the equipment, and everything.... [Castro changes thought] They are responsible for that equipment. The status of the equipment of each of these brigades is known. A brigade can be reinforced at any time. One brigade can reinforce another at any time but the organization of and the responsibility for the equipment is maintained.

Of course, this gives excellent results. This was one of the phenomena that was lost when the brigades were dissolved. Fortunately, brigades have been reorganized.

There is something very important. Not only brigades have been reorganized but contingents have been created as well. I would say it is the highest level of organization we have reached in construction. It is the higher organizational concept in construction. Contingent have become excellent construction units. They have made enormous progress in our country's construction. The contingent is a truly new idea and it is based on a number of principles and concepts which have been pointed out more than once. These principles and concepts are mainly based on discipline, in the discipline imposed by the collective, in the dedication to work, in the salary system that does not conspire against quality, and in the organization of work that does not conspire against the equipment.

It has been pointed out that the situation had become a madness in which a bulldozer or motor grader operator was sent home as an idle worker when the equipment broke down. This cannot be described in any other way than a madness because there were some who deliberately broke the equipment to go home with 70 percent of their salary. This is not socialism and has nothing to do with the construction of socialism. This is simply an enormous lie. That idle worker does not exist in the contingent.

The multi-assignment concept is very important and allows precisely for a man to do more than one job. A worker may be a truck driver and if the loader operator gets sick one day, the driver knows how to operate it because he learned and was taught how to operate it. The driver stops the truck and operates the loader. Perhaps someone else will take care of the truck. I know about family doctor nurses from the Blas Roca Contingent and others. [Castro corrects himself] not from the contingent but from the contingent brigades, who have learned how to operate equipment. They have learned how to operate a roller and even a bulldozer. This happened spontaneously in order to make the grade. The task of these health workers is not related to construction, but they learned. The driver can stop the truck and does not stop seven or eight trucks which would be stopped if the loader is stopped. In this way, there are no longer any idle workers and there are no longer the inconveniences of parasitism, which the idle worker method became.

The multi-assignment concept made this possible. Idle workers in construction received a high percentage of their salary. Who knows if they received one of those mid-level salaries. Chaos was created in the salary system. All kinds of things were invented to distribute money. This made construction projects tremendously expensive. Those salary problems still existed in some places. An end was put to this. It was a salary system that also conspired against quality.

This is my opinion of the famous salaries by agreement, which was another kind of crazy invention. You cannot apply to construction workers the same payment method used for manual cane cutters. This happened in construction projects. Sometimes there was a contract to build a wall but they ran out of materials, and such and such man could not move to do something else because there was a contract for the other task and he could not go there.

The leadership of the construction units, the technical and administrative leadership, had to devote most of their time to litigating with groups of laborers, discussing how much it would cost to pave an area, or to build a wall, or anything else. They could not pay attention to quality. That madness and running around did not allow for any kind of quality.

This is not the case of the salary system in contingents. The worker knows that quality is above all. The one who heads the project and the technicians can devote all their time to demanding quality and organization.

If volunteer workers went to those projects that used the contract payment system, those men, women, or students had nothing to do there. The workers would have them carry bricks. The worker would ask them to make a pile of bricks so that he did not have to get them, since he was laying bricks and charged by meters or a certain amount for a wall. Quality could never be compatible with this work method and this salary system which had been implemented.

This payment system disappeared in the contingent. In addition, a key matter in the contingents is the matter of attention to man. Men used to be called for work and taken to a pigpen. They were paid, and the conditions of the workers shelter and dining room were like a pigpen. They were told: Sleep on the floor; I pay you for sleeping on the floor. What does the country gain in having a laborer sleep on the floor? How can he regain his strength? How can he resume his work the next day with enthusiasm, vigor, and health if the food he gets is garbage? Even if he is paid, what is he going to do with the money?

When the contingents were created we were basing them on the idea that attention to man was a key matter. It reached levels that never existed before in Cuba. It reached the level of having each worker get a medical exam; it reached the level of attention to their health. The workers are provided medical and dental services. There are family doctors in contingents—that is, workers receive permanent medical attention. This measure saved lives. The family doctors discovered that workers had certain problems, that they could not do what they were doing because their blood pressure was too high or had other kinds of difficulties. They had those workers do things that they could do. Doctors saved the lives of some workers. These doctors give laborers safety and peace of mind.

The dormitories have mattresses. The beds have mattresses. The dormitories are air conditioned every time this is possible. So a contingent laborer who is provided shelter has the air conditioning a tourist can enjoy in a five-star hotel. The room is cool. If he sleeps 7 hours he sleeps them comfortably. If he only sleeps, [Castro rephrases] if he only rests 5 hours, he rests well.

In some contingents, workers are given up to six meals a day. They are given breakfast, snack, lunch, snack, dinner, and sometimes they are given another snack at night, depending on their work. Six meals a day. They are the best fed workers in the country. A laborer who works 12, 13, 14 hours has to eat well and has to rest well. We could add that the healthiest workers in the country are those who work in contingents. This shows that work does not harm one's health. One's health is harmed more by laziness. Lazy people sit around a lot, don't do anything. Those individuals become atrophied.

Sometimes I do see that contingent workers gain a little too much weight. The chiefs are the ones to blame because they sometimes do not set a good example. [laughter] Some are laughing over there, but not all brigade chiefs are in good shape. Work does awaken your appetite and the food is good. I believe the doctor will have to wage a battle so that contingent workers do not gain too much weight.

These are basic ideas. They resulted in a radical change in construction. The contingent spirit was transferred to other brigades or to many brigades that are not organized as a contingent.

A man is a man. He has honor and pride. He does not want to be inferior. The contingent organization has had an extensive effect upon the spirit of construction workers. There are many who say: We are not a contingent but we work 11, 12, 13 hours, we are doing this. Of course, there are many collectives who are aspiring to become a contingent.

This cannot be done easily because it is an excellent idea that we cannot discredit. This is why a certain path has to be followed. Certain things have to be done to become a contingent. There is a special salary system in a contingent as it corresponds with men who are at the forefront in their field of work. Of course, a contingent or a brigade can lose its banner. A certain level has to be maintained. This is why we have not wanted to do this extensively or quickly. All the steps have to be taken. The requirements are strict.

The results of the contingents are evident. We could give as an example the workers who built the Corojo Dam in Bayamo. What was produced with 1 peso, cost the country 2.40 pesos. The pace of construction was the old pace there, the pace that had been introduced with all those crazy things. That was when projects were never completed. It was going to take 22 years for the workers building the Corojo dam to complete it. Imagine 22 years using cement, stone, sand, fuel, equipment, labor force without receiving anything. Construction workers were organized into a contingent. I remember that when we presented their banner they had been able to reduce the cost of production but the cost was still over a peso. I told them: You have to reduce that. A few months later, that contingent, composed of the same workers although a lot fewer of them—undoubtedly, the best ones must have been the ones to stay—reduced the labor force and organized into a contingent. They reduced the cost of production per peso to less than 70 centavos. The cost

per peso was reduced by 25 percent. I believe it reached around 60 centavos from 2.40 pesos.

This is the way a country can develop. Do you believe a country can develop by building a dam for 22 years or spending 22 years to build a dam? Can a country develop like this? Can a country build a dam.... [Castro changes thought] They are already finishing it. Organized into a contingent, the workers will finish the dam in no more than 2 years. The effort has given immediate results. This is the way to develop a country.

Contingents have shown that they can do twice as much as they used to with half of the men. A well-kept machine in the hands of the contingent can do what three or four machines used to do. They used to be idle and broken a lot of the times. There were idle workers. There was absenteeism. Planning was absurd. Crazy methods were also introduced. There was a time when there were all kinds of crazy mechanisms.

They used to say: Let's assign 100,000 pesos for such and such a project; 150,000 and 200,000 for others. If there were six roads to be built, they would assign 100,000 pesos to each. A brigade or something like it would work for 3 months and do a little earthwork. Then the budget would run out and the brigade would go somewhere else. The budget would run out again and it would go to another place and so on. It would work in up to four places in a year. See how crazy it was?

Construction should be a continuous process. A project has to be assigned what it needs in pesos and materials because to stop 50 men and 20 or 30 machines from working because the budget ran out.... [Castro changes thought] Estimates need to be made properly.

That was incredible. We saw that, for example, what was once a good brigade—the one that built the road from Santa Clara or the town next to Santa Clara [unidentified speaker's remarks indistinct] Santo Domingo to Corralillo—got 100,000 pesos every year. The cost of the project was estimated at 6.5 million pesos. One day, I divided it up—it is pretty easy, 6.5 million by 100—and found that 65 years would be needed to complete the road. Not even the great grandchildren of those who were working there were going to see the road completed. The brigade was organized, order was established, concepts were applied, and it was completed a long time ago.

Now, the Pinar del Rio residents can go to Tres Playas, (Salto Ganusas), and Sierra Morena, which have been improved. They have a road that benefits the population, agriculture, everyone. Fortunately, all this craziness has come to an end. I believe there is no more craziness going on. The craziness was generalized in all damns, canals, and in all construction.

In order to build a hotel.... [Castro changes thought] Forget it. It took about 14 years to build El Ancon Hotel. It was inaugurated a few days after it was completed. There were heavy rains and everyone had to run away so they wouldn't get wet. It was a miracle that the tourists staying there did not drown at El Ancon Hotel in Trinidad. The roof had to be rebuilt. I do not know if they have used asphalt from Varadero or something but I have heard that the hotel does not get wet anymore.

Techniques had been forgotten. Tiles [rasillas], the noble and handy tiles that solved so many problems, had been forgotten. I believe that even the tiles that had been made had leaked. They were of very poor quality. Now adequate raw material is being developed and increased by using modern machines. The widespread use of tiles is one of these ways. Many types of mistakes were made in all fields.

It took from 12 to 14 years to build a hospital. The problem was that nothing was completed and nobody knows how much it cost. A radical change was necessary. This is the change that is taking place in construction. It doesn't mean that everything is settled. I prefer to have many things improved. However improve these things on firm ground instead of using the contingent concept, turning everyone into contingent, and discrediting them.

There are still many places in which poor work is done, although I say that construction work in general has improved considerably. I can cite the example of the construction workers who are building the Jimaguayu cattle program. It is a huge program. The country had never had a program such as this one. Those workers are not part of a contingent yet. They aspire to become a contingent. Many of its brigades do excellent work.

There are places I sometimes find in some corners, a few corners, a few projects where I see people sitting, and I ask them: Are you on strike? Are you on vacation? They say: No, I need this or that; I am waiting for the (?sandwich) to go down or the concrete mixer to stop; or something did not get here. There are still some people who loaf. Fortunately, there are fewer and fewer of these people. In the end, not a single one should be left. Ultimately, construction will have to be organized into contingents. All construction. We will ask those who are not any good to go someplace else and not do the noble work of construction. [applause] It will not be the administrator or the brigade chief who will do the asking. You will see how prestigious construction will be in the country.

Construction is very important. Construction is one of the basic activities. It is more important than any other activity. There is no agriculture, there are no dams, canals, irrigation systems without construction. There are no industries, sugar mills, factories without construction. There is no social or economic development without construction. There are no schools, child care centers, polyclinics, hospitals, hotels, airports, causeways, streets, aqueducts, nothing.

Without construction we would go back to the times of Christopher Colombus when he said he discovered, quote this hemisphere unquote. When he found the Indians, they knew how to do certain things. For example they knew how to build a bohio [hut] with palm

trees when this raw material was plentiful. There was plenty of construction material during the times of Columbus. They did not have a textile industry and did not need it. Perhaps they needed a hammock. There was nothing.

This is what the country would be without construction. Construction is the foundation of all economic and social development. Recreational places and housing could not exist without the work of construction workers. They are needed in the big plans for the development of the country in any field, and in making a research center, a pharmaceutical industry, a biotechnology industry. Development cannot happen without these things. This is why I have always thought that construction is one of the most important activities in the country and one of the ones that should have first priority in the country.

Of course, this does not mean that only one organization would be in charge of construction. That would be crazy. It is good for the sugar industry to build its own sugar mills. It is good for the Agriculture Ministry to build many of its projects, such as poultry and pig installations, and irrigation systems. It is appropriate for the People's Government to build. For example, the Blas Roca Contingent belongs to the People's Government in Havana City. It is good for cities to build. The Light Industry Ministry also builds, rebuilds, and it installs new equipment as it arrives. The Food Industry Ministry, Transportation Ministry, and Basic Industry Ministry build. To me, they are all constructors. The Light Industry Ministry organized a contingent with its own workers.

Yes. [speaker in the audience interrupts, remarks indistinct] Who is to blame for that, Mister? Isn't there a social mini-brigade around there? [speaker's remarks indistinct] What neighborhood is it? [speaker's remarks indistinct] Habana Vieja, isn't it? [speaker's remarks indistinct] Oh, well, you know that this is a patrimo..y of humankind. [speaker's remarks indistinct] You are going to have to talk with [Eusebio] Leal so that the problem is solved. Is the house historical? [speaker's remarks indistinct] You are lucky. [speaker's remarks indistinct] Oh, it is not historical? What is the house doing in Habana Vieja if it is not historical? [speaker's remarks indistinct] Yes. [speaker's remarks indistinct] You don't say. Well, Mister, how do you think we are going to solve the problem? [speaker's remarks indistinct] By talking with me?

But Mister, do you think it is appropriate to interrupt this event, in which we are talking about the great plans for the development of the country, of the country's strategy, for you to come and talk about a hole in a house? [applause] I believe you are not going to solve the problem in this way because I cannot solve it. If I talk tomorrow with Havana's People's Government, with [Pedro] Chavez, [Jorge] Lezcano and I tell them there is a citizen that.... [Castro changes thought] If I am told quietly, perhaps I would say: Nobody is going to know about it, so let's see if we can help this man.

[Text] But what would happen in this country if we fix the hole you have in your house? There would be 50,000 people interrupting ceremonies, interrupting work, interrupting everything asking for holes to be repaired. [applause]

What were we talking about before the matter of the hole came up? [laughter] [unidentified speaker's remarks indistinct] Oh, we were talking about construction workers. Yes, yes, yes. [Castro repeats himself] We were talking about the noble construction worker's job and the importance this basic activity has for the country.

If now, if now [Castro repeats himself] we are able to inaugurate a project such as this, if we can say that the Miguel Henriquez [Hospital] was completed in basically a year, that this air terminal was completed, that hotels are being finished, it is precisely because of these new concepts, these ideas that have been introduced, and of course, it is basically due to the new spirit of construction workers.

It was very moving for me when I handed the banners to the 25 brigades. I looked at each of the comrades who received the banner and I asked myself, I thought, how many hours did they have to devote to work, from dawn until after dusk? How much merit, how much trust must they have to be worthy of receiving the banners for themselves and the workers they represent? Looking from the stage, I had a good impression. When the comrades from the ceremony company—our youth, who are healthy, strong, and martial—came, I had a very good impression of everything. The ground trembled as they marched. When I saw them handing the banner.... [Castro changes thought] This is the new generation. This is the youth who were educated and nurtured by the revolution. [applause]

Above all, it was very encouraging when each brigade was mentioned. Such and such a brigade is building such and such a hotel, such and such a brigade is building another hotel, in that way, one by one. They mentioned up to 10 or 11 hotels that were being built simultaneously. I heard about such and such a brigade that is doing earthwork, such and such a brigade that is maintaining the equipment, such and such a brigade that is doing the finishing work. One gets an impression of how excellent organization is. This is the form of organization that allows us to carry out the feat that our country is carrying out in Varadero.

It was very pleasant to hear here what the earthwork brigade said. They said that since they were organized into a contingent, they have gone from 1,000 pesos to I believe 2,000 pesos per month in production value. [Castro corrects himself] 2,200 pesos per month. They were a good brigade. They were traditionally good construction workers. When they organized into a brigade and, later, into contingent—they were a brigade for a long time when they were building the highway—they doubled production. This is the way the country can

develop. Anyone can understand this. Anyone can see this. It was very encouraging to listen to them.

It is very encouraging to hear that you are going to build over 700 rooms this year and that the Varadero contingent plans to build no less than 1,600 rooms next year. You say 1,600 but don't let this be your final word because, you never know, if we organize two other brigades the day after tomorrow or next month, or in the first 3-month period, we will see what happens. Some 1,600 rooms will be built.

[Text] A reporter was asking me a while ago.... [Castro changes thought] The reporters are to blame for your having to wait for me. I'm sure you thought that I didn't want to come here because it was raining. The reporters started talking and asking questions. They talked about a subject I like a great deal. They asked me about contingents. They asked me about tourist projects and Varadero. They asked me: What do you think about the pace of construction in Varadero?

I said: You are asking me? You want my opinion? Well, I think they are too slowly. They said: What? I answered: You are asking me, is this not so? I think it is slow. There are so many needs that have to be met in the country, there are so many needs to develop this marvel, which is Varadero Beach, that 1,600 rooms seem to be too few. What am I going to say? That I am very pleased? If there were 3,000 instead of over 1,600 I would be a little, [Castro rephrases] not completely happy but at least a little more at ease. I said: This is my view. But, if you ask me how many projects are being constructed in Varadero compared to before, I would say it must be some 17 or 20 times more. But 20 more is too little. We have to build 40 times more, 50 times more than what we used to build.

The country simply must be developed. New resources need to be found. We must make the fatherland progress more quickly. Who is going to be pleased with a little when it comes to the revolution, when it is a matter of creating things for the people, new resources, when it is a matter of creating things for the country? Nothing can ever appear to be too much for us.

Of course, in Varadero we have to surpass the 1,600-room mark. I am not talking about you. You supported new workers forces. I believe you are making a big effort. I believe you are working well. That is something else but more needs to be achieved. We could be building at least 3,000, 4,000 rooms, as many as Varadero can take. Of course, more workers forces will be needed. More experience will be needed. Certain kinds of equipment to increase productivity will also be needed. Sometimes tools or machines are lacking. I provide Varadero, the contingent, and others with dump carts whenever I can.

Saturday evening, I was returning from an exploratory tour through future tourist development areas in the center of the country, in the northern part. When I was on my way back at night, at 2300 on Saturday, I saw some lights nearby. I saw construction activity. I stopped and went in. I found a Blas Roca Contingent brigade. They are determined to complete the bus terminal by December. A great number of men were working there. The lights were not even as bright as the ones we have here. They needed more light. They didn't have enough light. They were moving about with their wheelbarrows. They came and went. They loaded. The two cement mixers there were a disaster. They poured cement, gravel, and sand. They pushed the wheelbarrow 20, 40 meters and poured it there. They had a number of projects.

I found a construction veteran, a man of retirement age. He was a man of fiber, a dedicated man. He was in charge of the project at that time. He said he was training his children. Almost all of his children are university students. He is determined to created a construction brigade with children and retired men. He said he wanted to form a brigade with retired men and their children, the children of retired people. He is working in the [word indistinct]. I asked him: What do you need here? He answered me very logically: I need some dump carts. This is a very logical thing. I took out my little notebook to see how many were left and to see if I could do something. We always try to have some equipment in stock.

He asked for about four, but I didn't have very many so I told him he could have three. This is true. Can you imagine men pushing wheelbarrows that late at night? Imagine them transporting material from one place to another in wheelbarrows. They were moving cement in wheelbarrows, everything in wheelbarrows. Logically, three or four dump carts can do the work of 25 men.

Productivity immediately increases because of a few pieces of light equipment there. We are not talking about a truck, it is not a front loader, or a bulldozer. It is a dump cart. We are building part of them here in cooperation with a foreign enterprise.

They are an example. Those men are great workers and have great productivity. It was clearly seen there though that dump carts were needed. I suggested that instead of having all those people use shovels, they should get a small tractor with a front loader, the equivalent of the Soviet EO-2621 or the ones we build ourselves with the (?Yumo) tractor. I asked: Would that help you? He said: Of course, it would help a lot when we have to transport something and pile the sand. It was clear that two types of machines would immediately increase the productivity of those workers, those excellent workers. I am sure that if we go to each one of the projects we could find many examples of this kind.

I know that you don't have all the dump carts you need. We have not been able to give you all the ones you have asked for, although we have some dump carts in stock mainly for these tourist projects and other very important projects. We are not distributing dump carts.

We have to analyze everything that could increase the productivity of our construction workers. I am sure that when we have 100,000 men in contingents we will be doing the work 400,000 men used to do. This figure

could be increased to the extent that we use more technology in construction, and to the extent that we mechanize and improve the equipment and obtain the resources we need to increase productivity. I have no doubt about this.

I have seen how you can build hotels in 18 months. This is really something. Who was going to say that this country was going to be building hotels in 18 months? These are big hotels. This time frame could even be reduced in the future. We need to build at this pace without sacrificing quality. I know about the things that slow down construction. Plans have been delayed. Sometimes foreign plans are late and this slows down the project. The (Coiba) Hotel has been waiting for plans. Other times, delays are caused by lack of material because the imported material that is being awaited has not arrived and is due to arrive in October and November. To the extent we have the material available and the plans made beforehand, we will be able to advance much more faster.

I believe this contingent can be a good teacher. Other contingents have also been put to the test: for example, the pig integral centers the Construction Ministry is building. The ministry builds these centers in their entirety when they are new projects. The ministry should build large projects and not medium-sized projects. It should build large projects. The ministry should not get involved in projects that do not have much magnitude. For example, the previous practice was that the Construction Ministry built irrigation systems. I am not talking about dams. I am not talking about large canals, but the irrigation system that takes water to the countryside. We have said this task should be taken care of by the Agriculture Ministry. It is the task of the Agriculture Ministry and not the Construction Ministry. In this way, we spare the Construction Ministry from all those kinds of activities that dilute its action.

I was referring to the pig integral centers. As everything else, it used to take 5, 6, 7 years to build. This was analyzed and it was said that these centers, which are big ones, required at least 3 years to be built. Contingents in Santiago and other places began to build these integral centers with a very pragmatic and rational view. The breeding installations would be built first so that animals could be put in them before the project was completed. As each installation was finished, it would get animals. Well, some contingents have built the pig integral center in even 11 months, 11 months. [Castro repeats himself] See what a contingent can do? Three years was thought to be a good time frame. They did other things. They talked with planners. They saw how it could be rationalized, how the amount of concrete could be reduced. In sum, they did things that facilitated the project.

The same thing has been done with dairies. I tell you that to build one of those pig centers in 11, 12, 13, 14 months is truly a feat. At this time, they are working on them with great speed. This is the situation. There are visible and concrete results of the organization of workers into contingents.

I was telling you before that to build a hotel in 18 months is admirable. There are some projects that cannot be built in less time; however, if we increase productivity, we can build more projects, we can build more hotels. Productivity will depend on the techniques used, on the equipment, on the resources available, and the flow of supplies. These projects aimed at obtaining currency for our country should be prioritized. They should not be lacking in anything. If it takes an extra month to complete, we will lose a month's worth of income for the country. These projects will help the country's economy; they will also help the population. They will be a source of employment for many young people, of good jobs, and well-paid jobs. These projects will increase the vacation opportunities in our country. Many of these hotels will not have foreign visitors in the summer. Tourism is cyclical. During the cold season, citizens of developed countries, which have many resources, come to the tropics. However, in the summer, they can go to beaches in their own countries. This is why there is a drop in tourism during that time. The country will have many more slots for its own people to take vacations. See at what pace those slots are increasing!

Work is not only going on in Varadero. Reporters asked me and I said: We are working on many fronts. Work is going on in known places and in new ones. Causeways are opening the way to marvelous places, extraordinary places. I was saying that they were also becoming the patrimony of humankind. Not like Havana Vieja. Havana Vieja is a place to promenade, enjoy the scenery. What is there for a citizen of developed countries? They are eager to breathe fresh air, to enjoy the sun, waters that are not polluted, pure air. What do these hundreds of kilometers of beach we are conquering through the causeways mean? Some of them are like Varadero. Do not think that Varadero is the only great and extraordinary beach in the country?

Over the past few days, I have seen some places that are just as good as Varadero. I phrase it this way so I won't say that these places are better, so I won't offend the people from Matanzas. I have seen fabulous places. The causeways make them accessible. Work is being done. Sometimes it is done quietly, without much publicity. But work is being done. Practically all provinces have a tourism development program.

Havana, Matanzas, over there in Cayo Largo on the Isle of Youth, Villa Clara, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, Camaguey, Las Tunas, Granma, Holguin, Santiago, and Guatanamo have them. Some have more and others have less potential. I did not mention Pinar del Rio, which also has potential, possibilities, and aspirations. I did not mention Cienfuegos, which already has some hotels and still more potential for development. Practically all provinces have their programs. They are very enthusiastic about them.

Some provinces, in which there was no activity, asked the country to give them a chance. They claimed their right to develop plans and help the country's economy through tourism. But those places I was telling you about with pure air, pure ocean, beautiful and calm places, I am sure you are not going to find this in Europe or anywhere else. Europe's beaches were developed under capitalism and with the disorder of capitalism. Each one did whatever he wanted to with their own piece of land. They could build a hotel almost on the water if they wanted to. They did not follow a line, did not follow rules. All those virgin beaches can have a strip of 40, 50, 60 meters of beaches without obstacles. People can sunbathe there.

Buildings are built on the back; paths are built were they should go. We have possibilities for developing the most adequate architecture, the most functional buildings. We can do things rationally. We are not under capitalism. Each does whatever he pleases with his piece of beach under capitalism. Therefore, we have an excellent outlook to carry out a rational, intelligent development of all these resources.

We have presented banners to some brigades that are involved in other activities, such as water injection or building a causeway. Matanzas is going to have its causeway. Who would have thought this? Who would have thought that one day we would have the hope of getting rid of all those twists and turns in the highway toward the north and near Varadero? This is not the case anymore when one travels to the interior because of the national highway. However, it is always a headache and complication to cross the city.

In the not so distant future—because it already has its brigade that is aspiring to become a contingent, it received the banner and has its own equipment—Matanzas is going to build its causeway and overpass so that no one will have to cross the city. It comes through Via Blanca—what is the road called? [Word indistinct] two lanes and it crosses at the far side of the bay. This will be a great advance. When I say that the causeway and the overpass are already being built in Matanzas, everyone is glad, they are pleased to hear the news. It will help a great deal.

On the other hand, the highway extends up to here. We are also going to extend the two-lane road up to the airport. But now, the two-lane road up to Matanzas will be prioritized. So, we will be able to travel from Havana to Varadero on a two-lane road. Who would have imagined it? It has been said that there was a time when this project was going to be built but the money was stolen, despite the fact that the capitalists had many houses in Varadero and they were interested in good communication. They stole the money. It has been said that the money was stolen.

Likewise, now one can fly directly from Spain to Matanzas. This airport does not only link Varadero but also Matanzas with Europe. Large planes no longer have to land in Havana and people do not have to spend hours on roads with many curves to get here.

I am not saying that the people from Havana are going to fly to Matanzas. They travel by road to Santa Clara, which is farther away. Traveling time has been reduced to 3 hours. They are already traveling by road from Havana to Camaguey, from Havana to Holguin, Las Tunas, and the eastern provinces. Those highways link the regions of the country quickly and efficiently.

Matanzas has a number of important plans. It already has the largest thermoelectric power plant in the country, a thermoelectric power unit. It has a supertanker port. It has the largest citrus program in the country. Causeways are being built on the Cardenas Bay, on the Cienaga del Majaguillar. Oil drillers have almost doubled their productivity as a result of the new organizational concepts, attention to man, and technical resources that under certain circumstances speed up drilling. Oil possibilities along the coast from Varadero to Cardenas, in the Cardenas Bay in Majaguillar do not clash with the tourism industry.

The province is making progress in its irrigation plans. We have excellent capabilities in the sugar industry. We can produce 250,000 more tons over what had been produced in the last few years, during which there had been periods of drought. So, priority attention is being given to plot drainage and irrigation programs in Matanzas Province. It is also developing poultry and pig producing programs. It will also develop agricultural programs to supply Varadero with produce. Industrial production will be developed to sell these products also to tourists. So, overall, we have a clear outlook on the development of the province and the progress of the province in all its fields.

Of course, Matanzas does not have enough people to do everything it needs to do. This is why it needs the internationalist help of other provinces. Yes, I say internationalism because this is for international tourism. Is this not so? Also, because the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises [UNECA] was created for construction abroad. Let's say—nobody is going to believe that by working in Varadero.... [undidentified speaker interrupts, remarks indistinct] They are doing internationalist work.

I know that the UNECA has been building in many places. One day we said: If the UNECA is building roads over there and is building hotels, wouldn't it be better for it to build them here? We do not have enough. We are going to need tens of thousands of workers for these construction projects.

We will soon begin to build in Cayo Coco. We are not far from the day when construction will begin in Cayo Sabinal. Construction is intensifying at El Ancon. Construction is intensifying in Cayo Largo. Many things need to be done.

Ciego de Avila does not have a large population. Camaguey does not have a large population compared to its natural resources. It has to take care of 18,000 caballerias of cane, among other things. This is an important area for agriculture and industry. Work forces need to be moved. I believe the way we are doing it here is very adequate.

Material conditions have been created for men. New shelters have been built. I know that the food is good. At least these raw materials are plentiful. I do not know if you have good cooks. I believe you do. I believe so because it is not very difficult to get a technician from one of those hotels next to this place, technicians from the international and other hotels over there. [unidentified speaker's remarks indistinct] They have given you a technician and the food has improved. I know more or less the supplies you get and the pounds of proteins that are consumed in a month. I am not going to say how much because I don't want you to be left with the problem of having some of what you receive taken away from you.

I have the information and I am glad about that. I am very glad that all Varadero workers have been organized into a contingent. It is the largest one in the country. I am glad that the material living conditions are good, that the supplies are good. Of course, I believe all of us here have gotten a good impression of these collectives, a good impression of the project. It is of good quality. We have gotten a good impression of all the brigades in the province, a good impression of the 21 UNECA brigades working in Varadero because of their discipline, organization, efficiency, and enthusiasm.

I can truly see a big improvement in quality in everything I have seen here tonight. I believe all our people will also be satisfied to learn about your feats. For me especially, I repeat, it has been very pleasant for me to have inaugurated the Miguel Henriquez Hospital built by the Sixth Congress Contingent and to inaugurate today this Varadero airport, less than a year later. I know that the Sixth Congress Contingent is now going to build hotels. Not all of them. They are going to build two hotels. Not all of the workers are going to work on them because part of the contingent has to stay here. This means that we are not far from the day when we will inaugurate the velodrome and one of those hotels this same work force is building.

I mention this contingent because it is a symbol. Less than a year ago it built a project in record time. Now, it has built a project in record time. Part of this work force is going to build a velodrome in record time. Part of this work force is also going to build one or two hotels in Varadero in record time. I am sure of this. Of course, we are not only going to inaugurate projects built by the Sixth Congress Contingent. The Sixth Congress Contingent is now going to work with the Varadero contingent. The reason is not because of the earthwork brigades. We need to move them around, but they are subordinated to the interests of the construction projects in Varadero.

We are also eager to visit those magnificent projects you are building. We are eager to see the plans you have for 1990 become reality. Remember this, the most that can happen with these plans is that they will be expanded. I am certain that in the not so distant future our people will be able to enjoy Varadero Beach, not only indirectly through the income that they produce but also directly through those marvels you are creating at the already marvelous Varadero Beach.

I congratulate you all, Comrades. Fatherland or death! We will win! [crowd joins in: "We will win!"] [applause]

Luis is reminding me of something very important, very important [Castro repeats himself] in the history of the province and the patriotic spirit of the province. It is the name of the airport. They have proposed that this airport be named after the glorious and historic figure of the province: Juan Gualberto Gomez. [applause] I believe we all agree, don't we? [applause]

Airline Flights to U.S. 'Temporarily Suspended'

PA0210034989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0317 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Havana, 1 Oct (EFE)—It was announced today that Cuban authorities this week temporarily suspended the airline flights that have linked Havana and Miami since 1987.

According to Jose Rau Viera, Cuba's first vice minister of foreign relations, who explained the situation to a group of Western diplomats, the measure was taken to "establish order in passenger, merchandise, and foreign-exchange traffic (through flights to Miami), which have lately become quite disorderly."

Although no announcements have been made on the issue, Viera informed diplomats accredited in Cuba of the measure during a routine meeting with them.

This only direct connection between Cuba and the United States was used primarily by dissidents and former convicts and their families who were authorized by the Cuban Government to leave the island and by Cubans residing in Miami who visited relatives in Cuba.

The measure is part of a series of regulations issued in the past few days by different administrative agencies, whereby Cuban citizens are forbidden to have foreign currency or to buy import products in the special stores for foreign residents.

It is also worth noting that the suspension of flights comes following Cuban authorities' repeated assertions that they would take measures if "Tele Marti" (the U.S. Television channel that will begin broadcasting to Cuba at the end of the year) begins operations.

The suspension of the flights could be one of those measures, along the same lines as those applied in 1985 when " Radio Marti" started operations. "Radio Marti," the direct forerunner of "Tele Marti," led the Cuban

Government to suspend the immigration agreements reached by the two countries in 1984.

Guyana's Hamilton Green Pays Official Visit

Tours Hospital

FL2909180089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyan, who is in Cuba on an official, friendly, and working visit, has toured the Miguel Henriquez teaching hospital and a family doctor office in the capital. At the Miguel Henriquez Hospital, he was received by Dr Julio Teja, minister of public health. Hospital Director Francisco Caballero briefed him on the installation, the staff working there, and the socio-economic conditions of the area.

Cooperation between Cuba and Guyana is materialized in the health center through the services provided to Guyanese patients and an exchange of doctors. The Miguel Henriquez Hospital provides services to half a million residents of Regla, San Miguel del Padron, and Guanabacoa Municipalities, and Luyano neighborhood. It has room for 1,200 beds although not all are being used.

Last December, our commander in chief inaugurated the expansion of the emergency and outpatient rooms, laboratories, surgery unit, and therapy room.

The Guyanese prime minister showed interest in the way the buildings were built and the types of services provided to the population.

Meets With Castro

FL3009115089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1102 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] On Thursday [28 September], Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, received Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, who is visiting our country. The Guyanese leader briefed to the commander in chief about the most important aspects of Guyana's political and economic developments. He referred to the cooperation Cuba is providing to his country in the operation of a medical school and other areas of education and the economy.

For his part, the top leader of the Cuban revolution dealt with the efforts Cuba has made, not only in the economic area but also in the fields of science and technology.

Comrade Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Harold Sakedeo and Omar Mendoza, Guyanese and Cuban ambassadors, respectively, were present during the meeting between Fidel and the Guyanese prime minister.

Tours Sports Headquarters

FL3009015789 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Hamilton Green, prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, visited this afternoon the headquarters of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation [INDER]. At the institute, he was received by its President Conrado Martinez Corona, members of the leadership council of the official organization for sports in our country, and by Cuban athletes who are of recognized international prestige.

Once inside the coliseum of the sports village, the Guyanese prime minister approached the table tennis area where the Cuban male and female teams were training. The teams' coach answered questions from the distinguished visitor.

During discussions, the INDER president expressed his satisfaction over the meeting, which he termed as not formal but with someone very (?knowledgeable) about sports in his country. Green, for his part, expressed interest, among other matters, in the preparations for the Pan-American Games of 1991 which will be hosted by our nation.

Foreign Trade Minister Meets With Kim Il-song

FL2909200989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Kim Il-song, president of the DPRK, today received Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban foreign trade minister, and the delegation that accompanies him in Pyongyang to sign trade and scientific-technical agreements.

Cabrisas conveyed to the Korean leader a warm greeting from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the party and Cuban people. He also emphasized the good working and cooperation climate that exists between the two countries.

Kim Il-song expressed interest in the progress made during the past few years, and he said that Cuba and the DPRK are building a new society and are loyally fulfilling the principles of socialism. Korea will supply our country with laminated iron, textile products, and food products, among others. Cuba will provide Korea sugar, nickel, and sports articles.

The two parties agreed that bilateral cooperation is at the highest level it has been in 29 years.

Haiti

Politicians on Strike, 'Foreign Interference'

FL2909202489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Monitored in progress; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development] ..."of Haiti, both in Port-au-Prince and in the rural areas. I think this is the first time since 7 February 1986 that we have seen such unanimous rejection by all the nation's social strata of the government's economic and social policy." [passage omitted]

[Reporter] "Mr de Ronceray, this is not the first time we have seen this kind of movement. What should we expect next?"

[De Ronceray] [Passage omitted] "We are face to face with a government that must now react. We are awaiting the government's reaction, and depending on whether the reaction is in keeping with our demands or against them, of course, other actions will be taken in the next few hours or the next few days."

[Announcer] Louis Dejoie of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party, PAIN, had the same kind of reaction. He too declares the strike a total success, which Dejoie claims not only shows the population's revolt against the economic crisis and the prevailing insecurity but also how tired the Haitian people are of seeing foreign interference in Haitian affairs.

Dejoie also denounced the electoral calendar, which he says will only result in rigged elections.

[Dejoie, in Creole] [Passage omitted] "I have always told you that it is the government that must leave at the people's request and not the people who should leave at the government's request. [passage omitted]

"There is something we have always said. I am not ashamed to say it because it has always been my opinion: The Haitian people are beginning to be fed up with meddling by foreigners in Haitian affairs. I say this because we heard, this morning, some kind of communique that I think the U.S. Embassy or the State Department or something put out upon hearing that the nine crooked wheeler-dealers of the CEP [Provisional/Permanent Electoral Council] had put out an electoral calendar.

"I think it is shameful for the Americans to come out again and say that they see that there is a government in Haiti that is taking serious action, and that elections are finally going to be held in Haiti.

"The question is, at what price are these elections going to be held in Haiti? The CEP is trying to give us rigged elections, along with an electoral calendar that would make no sense in any civilized country. However, since we ourselves are just a country of little niggers [piti neg], they are pushing the Haitian people around, sending them out to vote eight different times." [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Maurepas Auguste of the Movement for Democratic Unity, MDU, says yesterday's strike constitutes a generalized and total disavowal by the population. In view of this disavowal, Prosper Avril should propose a dialogue. Maurepas August warns that to maintain a personal and solitary government is dangerous not only for the nation but also for the government itself.

[Auguste] [Passage omitted] "I heard him say during a news conference the other day that they should have engaged in dialogue. Rather it is you, as chief of state, who should have engaged in dialogue with people before taking your measures! You should have found out how they felt about things! [passage omitted]

"He started off well with his dialogue. There was the forum. [passage omitted] However, this forum should have been just the beginning of a series of forums on matters of fundamental importance to Haiti. In the final analysis, I would hope, for both Prosper Avril and the nation, that he has learned something from this, and that he realizes that this matter of a personal and solitary government is dangerous, both for (?him) and for Haiti."

Radio Commentary Discusses Current Situation

FL2909193189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Commentary by Radio Nationale's Emmanuel Menard]

[Excerpts] Today more than ever, we Haitians—native-born citizens, born of the womb of Haiti, of the womb of the Haitian masses—should sit down and think and become aware.

Our country is sailing rough seas. It is having a tough time. Our ship is endangered. We must all lend a hand.

We must lend a hand because this country belongs to us, and it is up to us alone—individually and collectively—to save it. If we just sit by and watch, without taking any action, we will awaken tomorrow shocked to find the country dying in our arms. Heaven forbid!

How ashamed we are going to be when others say to us: What did you Haitians—who won your independence in 1804, who fought at Savannah, and who set examples that made the world's head spin—ever do to get your country out from under the wretched, extremely severe trials and tribulations that have been knocking you to your knees for such a long time? [passage omitted]

The Haitian people have been suffering for a long time—going around naked, hungry, without medical care, without employment, having to sleep in the streets, or in houses made of cardboard or out of pieces of paper—while a portion of the population lounges around on its back enjoying life. Come on! Give us a break!

Since 1804, the Haitian people have been trampled underfoot. Crooked wheeling and dealing has gone on behind their backs at their expense. Decisions have been made for them. People they don't even know have been speaking out in the Haitian people's name.

The proverb teaches you to help those who have gone out of their way to help you [chanje chemiz pou moun ki sue pou nou].

The Haitian people have had it today! Too many people are speaking for them! Someone always wants the Haitian people to take to the streets, demonstrate, vote, applaud, or encourage (?dogs), as the proverb says. Then they throw the Haitian people the scraps from their table.

This has to change. The Haitian people must have their share of what is on the table because it is the Haitian people's sweat, their stamina, and their blood that produced it. Come on! Give us a break!

Today everybody and his uncle is a defender of the Haitian people! God help the Haitian people!

They have been sending the Haitian people into the streets since 1804. Clubs! It is the Haitian masses that get knocked about.

Rifles are aimed at little John Doe. Little Jane Doe gets clubbed. John Q. Public suffers a violent death. It is always the Haitian masses who are up front.

Money is distributed. Tires are passed around. It is the Haitian masses who end up the victims. Come on! Give us a break!

At the present time, a number of scandalous problems are negatively affecting the country. Housing is expensive. Food is expensive. Foreign currency is out of sight! This entire burden falls on the back of the state, on the back of the government, and on the back of the Haitian people.

Meanwhile, bigshots are wheeling and dealing crookedly, raking in money and sending it away to be stashed in foreign countries. Lord have mercy on us! What past sin did the Haitian people commit that they are paying for now?

They caused students to lose the school year. Meanwhile, their own children are receiving instruction in France, Canada, the United States, etc. So who lost out? The children of the Haitian masses!

For the slightest little thing: strike! Oh God, give us a break!

A strike is a weapon, a weapon for the worker to use in his struggle when those on top are trampling him underfoot. It is a weapon to be used to get his rights acknowledged. However, it is also a weapon that when used improperly can destroy a country.

A strike against the high cost of living. Terrific! However, on the eve of the strike, the cost of food rose. Black marketeering. God help the Haitian people! There is maneuvering going on right and left to prevent the Haitian people from understanding their country's reality.

A group of (?creeps) abruptly pops up from God only knows where and sinks its claws into the nation's wealth. And now they are making the Haitian people look like fools and making the Haitian people do stupid things.

Who benefits from these strikes? Stores sell more on the eve of a strike. The news spreads like wildfire and everyone rushes to stock up on groceries. The Haitian masses, however, cannot afford to buy groceries for 3 days at a time. The Haitian masses are in trouble.

Warehouses holding flour, cement, sugar, and rice are full to capacity. There is black marketeering going on. The Haitian people are hungry. God help the Haitian people! My word! All this is blamed on the state—the beast of burden. The government gets to carry the entire load! My friends, the Haitian people can't stand it anymore!

The government takes measures to bring down prices. The fifth column rises up to block the path. The government takes measures to tax things normally, as is done in all countries. No money comes into the state coffers to build roads, provide schools and hospitals, and create jobs for the citizenry. This is tough!

Press releases are read over the radio. Statements are made left and right—in the name of the Haitian people, if you please! Meanwhile, the Haitian people don't know how to read. The Haitian people don't know what is being said in their name. The Haitian people are hungry.

We have reached a point where all citizens must get together and lend a hand in order to fight to uproot the high cost of living. We must fight to prevent the richest of us from becoming richer and the poorest of us from becoming poorer; fight to make the bigshots who have been filling suitcases with money for a long time pay taxes to the government, as is proper; fight to prevent ministers, directors, and other people responsible for the country from embezzling from the state coffers too. We must fight, support the government, and back it up, so that the measures taken to benefit the Haitian people can be applied!

My goodness, friends! Aren't the Haitian people—who are badly fed, badly lodged, and badly clothed—striking just about every other day? This business of being put out into the streets to strike for people whose only ambition is to come to power should not be allowed to prevent the Haitian people from working for progress in Haiti. It should not be allowed to hinder the democracy that must be established, a democracy under which the Haitian people must have the right to choose their leaders through the free and honest elections that are going to be held in Haiti.

On 29 November 1987, the Haitian people died with ballots in hand. In 1989, the Haitian people are going to set their sights on change for their country. No (?crooked) forces whatsoever should be allowed to hinder them along the path that is to lead them into democracy.

Responsible political leaders and true democrats should offer the Haitian people their hand, so that no bird of prey will be able to swoop down upon and destroy the Haitian people's beautiful dream—a dream that they must, come what may, make reality.

The Haitian people (?and) the government must be vigilant, so that those who would like to see Haiti fall into disorder will come up against the nationalistic and patriotic forces that are working to deliver Haiti from this difficult, topsy-turvy situation that (?has been hanging over its head) for a long time now.

Today all forces including the masses, the public administration, the government, friendly countries, intellectuals, workers, peasants, honest and patriotic merchants, and staunch democrats must (?lend a) hand, so that Haiti will not lose this battle, the battle the government is waging to establish democracy and to hold proper elections—elections in which the people will, without accepting any alcohol, money, or food distributed by fake Haitians, determine their nation's destiny.

Today, Haiti is a candidate for democracy. The Haitian people and government must keep a close watch to ensure that no greedy and crooked politicians cause the Haitian people to lose the battle.

Friends, the solution to the problems of Haiti lies in the strength and stamina of every individual Haitian! My brothers and sisters, given the tight corner Haiti is in at present, let's get to work!

Prospects for Bush-Salinas Meeting Reviewed

PA3009145489 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] The forthcoming meeting between Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and U.S. President George Bush will be the third time they have met in the past 10 months, and it will be a historic meeting. In this sense, we recall U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's 16 December 1988 statements, outlining U.S. policy for Mexico. At that time, Baker rejected a unilateral position, saying it was time Washington treated Mexico with the necessary respect and seriousness, based on equality and mutual respect. Baker's words were a direct result of the so-called Houston spirit that developed when the still presidents-elect, Carlos Salinas de Gortari and George Bush, met for the first time on 22 November 1988. The second meeting took place in Paris in July 1989. At this meeting, matters were settled that enabled Mexico to reduce its foreign debt. Now, in the third meeting in less than a year, both presidents will discuss old but still ongoing problems, and new problems too. The U.S. delegation's agenda includes the scourge of drug traffic. In this respect, Mexico has already launched an unprecedented campaign against drugs that has resulted in the arrest of persons who thought they were exempt from the law, and 22 tons of drugs have been confiscated. Washington will also discuss trade relations, and Mexico will insist that the United States allow Mexican service firms to operate within its territory. It will also demand that U.S. protectionist barriers be eliminated so that a balanced exchange of products between nations can be attained. The White House is expected to reaffirm its support for the young regional democracies and, in this respect, Mexico has won international recognition. George Bush will talk with his Mexican colleague on subjects such as border cooperation and immigration. The Mexican position is that it wants to build and open new border posts.

Regrading the subject of undocumented Mexicans, Salinas de Gortari has stated that he wants to see Mexicans working in Mexico. The U.S. Administration will also cover the topic of the environment, and Mexico will ask for the elimination of the toxic waste that has contaminated our waters. Undoubtably, the subjects of foreign debt and financial cooperation between both countries will not be absent from the meeting. In some cases the presidents will agree, and in others disagreements will continue. What is more important, however, is that reciprocity and respect will surely prevail at the upcoming meeting.

Opposition Leaders Killed in Auto Accident

PA0110214589 Hamburg DPA In Spanish 2115 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Oct (DPA)—Manuel J. Clouthier, leader of the Mexican right-wing opposition and former presidential candidate of the National Action Party (PAN), was killed today in a traffic accident, according to the NOTIMEX news agency.

Clouthier was killed at km 158 on the Mexico-Nogales highway, in the northern state of Culiacan, when the car he was driving collided with a truck. PAN deputy Javier Calvo, who was riding in the car with Clouthier, was also killed in the accident.

Attorney General on Results of Antidrug Effort

PA3009041889 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 27 Sep 89 pp 1, 4

[Text] Surrounded by 6.3 tons of packaged cocaine, confiscated over the last two months, Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo gave a major run-down Tuesday of the achievements of the Attorney General's Office (PGR) within the last 10 months with the national program for the prevention and combat of narcotics and drug addiction.

At a press conference in the PGR headquarters that resembled the set of a movie, major changes to the criminal laws were also announced by the Attorney General.

The current criminal law dictates a sentence of 10-25 years in prison, instead of the previous 7-15 years, "for persons found guilty of planting, harvesting, manufacturing, transporting, trading, marketing, prescribing, promoting the use, and financing substances considered by the General Health Act as drugs of psychotropic substances."

The sentence also applies to public workers and officials who conceal or allow these illegal actions. The penalties are extended by as much as one half of the original sentence, instead of one third, "if the culprits are public employees in charge of preventing or investigating such crimes or if the victim is a minor or legally incompetent."

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's administration has taken a harsher stance against the drug conflict by initiating and supporting the current program against the production, trade and abuse of narcotics.

The sum of 126.7 billion pesos, representing 60 percent of the budget of the PGR, is being allotted to drug fighting, a significant increase over the last administration.

The upcoming Salinas de Gortari visit to the United States for his first meeting with U.S. President George Bush, sparked questions by reporters as a major topic in the president's agenda includes the signing of agreements to increase and coordinate efforts against the drug trade.

Alvarez del Castillo, who is one of the five cabinet members of the team that will accompany the president, said that during this meeting he will encourage the signing of the Mutual Cooperation Treaty on Legal Assistance.

The treaty deals with the prevention, investigation and prosecution of crimes through the establishment of more flexible coordinating mechanisms between the two countries.

Although the treaty was approved by the Mexican Senate in 1987, it has not yet been approved by the U.S. Senate.

Over the last 10 months, the PGR announced that its agents, along with the support of the army and the navy forces, have confiscated 22 tons of cocaine and have destroyed 30,414 marijuana plantations and 38,325 opium poppy fields.

During this same period, the PGR said it has seized nearly 372.7 kilos of dried packaged marijuana and 539 kilos of opium gum and heroin.

Alvarez del Castillo said within this period important criminal drug trafficking organizations, operating on national and international levels, were dismantled. Their kingpins were arrested and held for trial. Renowned drug lords currently imprisoned include Rafael Caro Quintero, Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo and Miguel Angel Feliz Gallardo.

The Attorney General said the program is constantly being reviewed, adjusted and renewed and is based on three fundamental strategies.

The strategies include the following: emphasizing awareness among the people about drugs for their prevention and combat; reinforcing measures for fighting against drug trafficking in coordination with federal, state and municipal authorities; intensifying Mexico's participation in international forums to learn, share information, sign agreements and coordinate actions with other nations.

In the combat against what Alvarez del Castillo called "the universal plague," the Attorney General reiterated that "drug trafficking can only be attacked through effective and energetic international action."

Alvarez del Castillo reiterated the major projects of the PGR in its drug enforcement program, of which prevention, rehabilitation and campaigns to combat drug production and trafficking are major priorities.

Traffickers Threaten Attorney General

PA2909162789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0553 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Sep (AFP)—The Attorney General's (PGR) spokesman, Fernando Arias, reported today that this office has received several telephone threats from alledged drug traffickers and that strict security measures have been implemented at the Mexico City offices.

The alledged drug traffickers stated: "We are willing to die in this war. Do not sing victory yet. Watch out."

After these first anonymous calls, the Federal Antinarcotic Agency assigned a special group called the "Sharks" to guard the main installations of the Mexican PGR Office. The 22 men in this special group tote high-powered rifles and guard the buildings' roofs, corridors, entrances, and offices.

The threats were made after Mexican PGR Enrique Alvarez showed approximately 7 tons of confiscated cocaine to media representatives when he reported on the government's anti-drug activities in the past 10 months. The cocaine is to be publicly incinerated on 29 September.

According to the PGR, the Mexican Government has confiscated 22 tons of cocaine, arrested approximately 8,000 drug traffickers, and seized a large amount of vehicles and weapons since 1 December 1988, when President Carlos Salinas took office.

El Salvador

U.S. Congressmen Meet Government, Opposition

PA3009160989 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A delegation of U.S. Congressmen met on 29 September with top-ranking government officials and Acting President Jose Francisco Merino Lopez to learn of the progress made on the talks or negotiations with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. During their visit, the Republican and Democratic congressmen met with opposition sectors and the crippled FMLN fighters who are at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Afterward, they went to the Presidency to hear the government's proposal for the upcoming meeting in San Jose.

President Cristiani's Visit to UK 'Advantageous'

PA0110131289 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Report by Maria de los Angeles Tenorio]

[Text] Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso said on 28 September that Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani's meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was extremely advantageous for El Salvador because it proved that the UK supports the efforts being made by the Salvadoran Government. While in the UK, Cristiani also met with OIC [International Coffee Organization] officials and British businessmen to strengthen trade relations between the two countries.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] President Cristiani's meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had been scheduled to last 10 minutes. However, it lasted 45 minutes. This makes us very happy. Mrs Thatcher has offered President Cristiani's government her total support; she understands all our problems. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Valdivieso also said that President Cristiani will meet with Pope John Paul II in Rome on 29 September. Cristiani is in Rome on a private visit. Cristiani's diplomatic tour, designed to correct the mistaken ideas that some foreign countries have about El Salvador, will conclude in New York after President Cristiani addresses the UN General Assembly on 2 October.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] In addition to the pragmatic issues that will be broached during that visit, it will be most important to destroy the barriers that have been built that damage El Salvador's image. Some of these barriers are already being removed by our president's presence in those countries. [end recording]

Deputy Foreign Minister Valdivieso also said that President Cristiani will attend the Latin American presidential summit to be held next month in Costa Rica at the initiative of Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. Valdivieso made these statements to the press after swearing in the new ambassador to Guatemala, Rafael Saldivar Quizuela, and the general consuls to Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, Luis Alvaro Rosales and Idalia Menjivar.

Government, Rebels Hold Continuing Dialogue

'Total Amnesty' Offered

PA2909210689 Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 29 Sep (AFP) — The Salvadoran Government will offer a "total amnesty" to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN). In exchange, it will ask the insurgents to lay down their weapons and join civilian life, Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria announced today.

In statements to a local television station, Santamaria said the proposal will be officially presented to the rebel leaders during the second round of the dialogue, which will be held 16-17 October in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Santamaria, who is the Alfredo Cristiani government dialogue commission spokesman, met for the first time with the FMLN leaders on 13, 14, and 15 September in Mexico City.

On 21 September, Defense Minister General Humberto Larios, for the first time in the 9 years of war, said that reducing the number of Army troops, as demanded by the rebels, is feasible. He said the government is drafting a document on the cease-fire that it will present at the Costa Rica meeting.

During the Mexico meeting the parties in conflict agreed to hold meetings to try to reach an agreement on the war, which has resulted in 70,000 deaths over a 9-year period.

Despite the dialogue, the guerrillas this week launched one of the most violent military campaigns yet, which even affected San Salvador. This guerrilla campaign is in response to "increasing repression and assassinations" of labor leaders.

The only issue to be discussed at the Costa Rica meeting will be the cease-fire. The two parties have expressed confidence that an agreement will be reached before the end of this year.

In addition to the reduction in the number of Army troops, the rebels proposed in Mexico that the judicial branch be reorganized and that a prosecutor [fiscal] be appointed as a result of a consensus between the government and the political parties. In response to a question about the intensification of the armed struggle by the rebels, Santamaria said: "We are at a stage where the tension level is declining. We have found points of agreement, and we and will honor them." [passage omitted]

Recommendations for Commission

PA3009221889 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Report on interview with Colonel Orlando Montano, deputy defense and public security minister, by Rene Hurtado—date and place not given]

[Text] Colonel Orlando Inocente Montano, deputy public security minister, yesterday revealed that the Defense Ministry has submitted recommendations to the Dialogue Commission regarding an upcoming meeting in Costa Rica in October. Col Montano said he hopes that the commission will accept these recommendations and propose them to the FMLN:

[Begin recording] [Hurtado] Colonel, what other recommendations have you submitted to the government and the Dialogue Commission regarding the end of hostilities on the part of the Armed Forces?

[Montano] First, we made a very important recommendation: To begin a sincere dialogue—if they are genuinely willing to enjoy the benefits afforded by democracy in our country—they must lay down their arms. They cannot negotiate with their weapons under the table, because the Salvadoran Armed Forces is the only armed group recognized at home and abroad. We exist by virtue of the Constitution and are part of the state itself. [Hurtado] Colonel, does this mean that the negotiations will not continue if the guerrillas refuse to lay down their arms?

[Montano] No, that is a purely political issue. Our recommendations to the government regarding the dialogue [words indistinct] of the Armed Forces. That is precisely why we do not participate in the dialogue or negotiations, because we would have to be armed at these meetings in keeping with our Armed Forces duties. Thus, we do not want to participate because this is a political matter. However, they are armed. They surround the entire area with their men [words indistinct], but the truth is that they are violating the law. This is not advisable. The recent peace talks in Mexico were very positive. I understand that in Costa Rica [words indistinct] because the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] wants to join the democratic process [words indistinct].

[Hurtado] Colonel, does this mean that the Armed Forces have more faith in this new dialogue with the FMLN? Are you at least giving it more credibility?

[Montano] We have always been believers. We believe in the goodwill of the Salvadoran people. We believe that everyone is equal in this country and that we all have the same characteristics and aspirations. This is why we are confident that the FMLN, in seeking a negotiation, does so with the belief that it will indeed be able to join the process. We have supported the efforts of this government and the previous government to sign peace treaties and to participate in talks, of which there have been more than six.

Of course, some people are still wary because Communists never speak the truth. They are always seeking ways to reach power. [end recording]

Those were Col Montano's comments on the dialogue that will take place in Costa Rica. He added that a 5-percent cut in the Defense and Public Security Ministry budget does not at all affect the activities of the Armed Forces. Montano added that the budget cuts will only result in the suspension of some building projects; however, it has been reported that certain kinds of ammunition will not be purchased because of the budget cut.

FMLN Issues Communique

PA2909222089 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command; read over telephone by unidentified FMLN spokesman—no date or place given]

[Text] We report to you the following considerations related to the present situation in the search for a just and lasting peace in El Salvador.

1. We note with deep concern that there has been an alarming increase in human rights and humanitarian war norms violations by the government and the Armed Forces. These violations can be observed in the repression of demonstrations, tortures, murders, arrests—more than 400 in the past month—disappearances, and in the government's refusal to allow maimed Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] members to leave the country to get medical attention. This norm is stipulated in the Geneva Convention, and this is an agreement that has been signed by the Salvadoran Government. This situation has been clearly demonstrated by the resolution issued by the subcommission [30-second break in reception] period in August 1989. Mr Cristiani said this resolution was not truthful.

2. Government spokesmen and Mr Cristiani himself have repeatedly stated that the achievement of peace depends on the FMLN's halting hostilities. This presents a unilateral plan that has not been agreed upon politically, militarily, or operationally.

In contrast to these statements, when the FMLN unilaterally declared a truce recently, Mr Cristiani, officials in his administration, and military commanders stated that these FMLN measures were propagandistic and that the truce was not respected. Their arguments were attempts to justify the government's breaking of the truce.

These events give us additional grounds for stating that a definite and unconditional halt to hostilities is unrealistic and unfeasible.

Such an unconditional cease-fire does not correspond to the spirit of the Esquipulas and Tela agreements, and the accords the government and the FMLN signed in Mexico in which the sides clearly agreed to find solutions in the

area and in El Salvador. Asking for an end to the war and negotiations is like demanding that the situation be changed without having won the war. In addition to being unrealistic, this is a formula for not negotiating and continuing the war.

In the Esquipulas II documents, the governments urge the sides to agree to a cease-fire. The Tela accords also appeal to the Salvadoran Government to reach an agreement with the FMLN in the spirit of the Esquipulas II accords. This particular agreement links the cessation of hostilities to democratization, social justice, and self-determination as a harmonious, indivisible whole. This concept is supported by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 637 of 27 July 1989. In addition, the first paragraph of the Mexican accord reads as follows: The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN will talk in an effort to reach an understanding through negotiations to conclude the armed conflict through political means as soon as practicable. The Salvadoran Government and the FMLN will foster the country's democratization and reunite Salvadoran society. The dialogue is meant to serve as an instrument for reaching an agreement on cessation of hostilities. The agreement that the government signed in Mexico says nothing of talking about or negotiating the FMLN's demobilization, but mentions negotiations to encourage democratization to agree on the cessation of hostilities.

By increasing the number of human rights violations, Cristiani is closing the door to democratization. This, plus his refusal to reach an agreement with the FMLN, makes him guilty of noncompliance with the commitments that the government made at Esquipulas.

3. In accordance with the commitment we made in Mexico and with the regional accords, we reiterate our full willingness to agree with the government on a cease-fire as soon as practicable and to attend the upcoming negotiation meeting in Costa Rica. For this meeting, we have included in our peace proposal an agreement on a cease-fire based on the following points: Reforms to the judicial system; cessation of repression; trial of both those guilty of the murder of Monsignor Arnulfo Romero and those found to be members of the death squads; enforcement of the 1980 economic and social reforms; and suspension of the economic measures that exacerbate the crisis and the war; purge of the Army; constitutional amendments; holding the 1991 elections ahead of schedule; minimum operational guarantees to establish geographical areas for the forces to maintain an effective cease-fire.

After strong opposition to the presence of the UN and OAS Secretary Generals' representatives, who will serve as witnesses at the dialogue table, Cristiani agreed to invite them to the Costa Rica meeting. We hope he keeps his word because this will lend seriousness to the process and guarantee the negotiations initiated in Mexico. [Signed] The FMLN General Command

Soldiers Disperse Demonstrators in Capital

PA0110024689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0010 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] At approximately 1700 today Salvadoran soldiers and members of the repressive corps launched various types of mobilizations throughout various parts of the capital city. Government workers who were holding a meeting on the sidewalk outside the San Francisco Church were attacked by members of the three repressive corps. The government workers were demanding the release of union leaders arrested a few days ago, but their demonstration was dispersed. It was learned that Pedro Ruiz, [words indistinct] of the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, and Carlos Miguel Mejia, [words indistinct] social security, have been arrested.

Meanwhile, it was also learned that [words indistinct] clashed with First Infantry Brigade soldiers [words indistinct] Ponce. This occurred in Mejicanos, in northern San Salvador. The Mejicanos Catholic Church, where a group of demonstrating workers has been surrounded by [words indistinct] troops.

It has also been learned that another group of soldiers entered the El Calvario Church to dislodge the workers who had occupied it to protest government repression.

At 1700 today there was great tension in San Salvador. Military groups were patroling the city while more unions were announcing activities to be held in the next few hours.

FMLN Radio Summarizes Sep Rebel Actions

PA0210043289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] In September, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] decreed an 10-day unilateral truce and suspended sabotage operations to the electricity and telephone systems in early September.

The estimated casualties for the month of September are 457. We have confirmed 457 enemy casualties, which include a captain, a chief of a battalion, and a lieutenant killed, and seven lieutenants wounded. During September, the FMLN captured 15 Armed Forces members. Fifteen war prisoners captured this month.

This month we seized: 1 81-mm mortar with 20 shells; 1 70-mm mortar with 11 shells; 1 90-mm cannon with 7 shells; 6 M-60 machineguns.

In September we seized 72 rifles. In other words, a column of rebels has been armed thanks to you, messrs imperialists who have sent these U.S. weapons. We seized 72 rifles from the Army with 15,000 bullets for these rifles. We also seized in combat [words indistinct] LAW rocket launchers; 7 M-79 rocket launchers with 100 rockets; 9 TRT-77 military communication radios; and 96 knapsacks. In other words, we have armed an

entire column of guerrillas [words indistinct] with these U.S.-made weapons seized from the Army.

In September we damaged five helicopters and destroyed three armored vehicles. We damaged garrisons in the city of Chalatenango, Chalatenango Department; the Military Detachment No 4 main garrison and a new garrison in San Francisco Gotera. We also damaged the Pacayan Communications Base in San Miguel Department. We destroyed a 105-mm howitzer in San Francisco Gotera. We damaged the Entre Rios Cooperative military base. We sabotaged four small planes and destroyed a bridge. Our urban guerrillas sabotaged banks and government installations. They also sabotaged construction equipment in San Salvador and San Miguel. During the first 12 days of September, before we suspended sabotage operations, we damaged 81 electricity system structures.

In September, we launched an intense military operation in the interior of the country, which included attacks on strategic positions in the capitals of three departments. Urban guerrillas carried out activities in San Salvador and San Miguel, which included attacks on repressive corps posts and civilian defense posts on the outskirts of San Salvador. We evaded the [words indistinct], which is beginning to trap and hold up the enemy's strategic rearguard. We want to point out the number of weapons seized as well as the [words indistinct] and the increasing number of prisoners of war.

[Words indistinct] due to the bad weather but made a quick trip to La Laguna and to Perquin in the departments of Chalatenango and Morazan, respectively, to take a picture, supported by Atlacatl, Arce, and Belloso Battalions for the purpose of proving that the Army's High Command can reach—for a few distressing moments—these territories, which for the past 10 years have been and will remain under FMLN control.

Guatemala

Cerezo Pleased With Results of Trip to UN

PA3009184989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1807 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Returning from New York, where he attended the UN General Assembly, Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo said last night he hopes the country will receive greater economic aid.

The Christian Democratic president said he is "completely convinced" about the increase in economic aid because "Guatemala is the key to the balance of forces in Central America, and its importance as a democratic country increases the possibilities of aid."

Cerezo said that even though his agenda was quite heavy, he was able to meet with U.S. President George Bush, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, and Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

"Although I am a little tired, the results are definitely going to be great," he stressed.

The Guatemalan president explained that during his meetings he had the opportunity to exchange views on the Central American peace process and the foreign debt and drug trafficking problems, among others.

He and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar discussed the special economic aid program for Central America and the region's peace process.

Deputy Minister Says Terrorists Neutralized

PA2909142289 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Sep 89 pp 17, 27

[Text] First Deputy Interior Minister General Carlos Augusto Morales stated: I do not believe the White Hand [ultrarightist terrorist organization] exists. It just happens that there are groups interested in destabilizing the country. To accomplish their goal, these groups distribute bulletins with death threats against government officials and union leaders.

Gen Morales said this to reporters about a bulletin allegedly issued by the White Hand organization. The bulletin threatened to kill several government officials who are linked to corruption cases.

Morales added that the bulletin is presently being studied by a special department in the security forces as it is mostly illegible.

The government official also added that Guatemalan security forces have neutralized terrorist groups that have attempted to terrorize the population with their actions over the past few days.

Gen Morales stated that security forces maintain a constant control over groups that, according to reports, are linked to terrorist actions.

He revealed that several citizens have met with him and have given him information that has been decisive in neutralizing groups that attempt to destabilize the democratic system.

The official also reported that Guatemalan security forces are designing new strategies to counter changing terrorist tactics.

Government Rules Out Resurgence of Death Squads

PA2909145989 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 4

[Text] Guatemalan Deputy Government Minister Carlos Morales Villatoro has lessened the importance of an anonymous note supposedly circulated by the "White Hand" extremist organization. Morales said that, in any

case, a large investigation on the identity of the possible authors of the note has been opened.

Morales said that obviously there are groups interested in destabilizing the Guatemalan de jure state and for that reason they circulate leaflets that confuse both citizens and the government's security forces.

Morales definitively ruled out the possibility of the resurgence of the death squads in the country, because the government's security forces permanently control the individuals who used to belong to those squads.

Asked about the status of politician Lionel Sisniega Otero, Carlos Morales flatly denied that Sisniega is under arrest. Morales also denied the existence of clandestine jails as the relatives of Sisniega, who is a fugitive, suggested.

Morales added that it would not be remote to think that Sisniega has left the country illegally. We have not ruled out that possibility, because despite all the efforts made by the security forces and even by SIPROCI [Civil Protection System], his whereabouts remain unknown.

Asked about the possibility that the relatives of murdered businessman Ramiro Castillo Love had hired foreign special investigation services to clarify that abominable crime, Morales said they had every right to do so. In many countries, particularly in the United States, there are specialized detectives who can help in the clarification of murder.

Army Spokesman Discusses Current Issues

PA2909142689 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 6

[Text] Army spokesman Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez, in response to statements by Attorney Jose Carlos Acevedo Chaverria, has given assurances that "there is no secret jail." Regarding Defense Minister General Alejandro Gramajo's dismissal, he said that that is up to the president.

Acevedo Chaverria pointed out that Gramajo, upon returning from Washington, had confessed to having violated the Guatemalan Constitution and to influencing the judicial branch for which, Acevedo Chaverria said, he should be dismissed from his post.

Army spokesman Isaacs said: "A military order was issued for the purpose of protecting the life of Captain Sisniega Cordero in view of the latest events. Sisniega is currently in Venezuela as deputy military attache; if that is considered a violation of the Constitution and interference in the functions of the judicial branch, then the law must determine what course of action must be taken."

"As for Gen Gramajo Morales' dismissal, that is the exclusive domain of the president, who is the commander of the Armed Forces. Meanwhile, there is no secret jail. If anyone knows about such a jail, let him report it to the appropriate authorities," said the chief of the Armed Forces Department of Information and Publication.

Kidnapped Europeans Reportedly Released Unharmed

PA2909183389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1534 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Police sources reported today that a Spaniard, a Frenchman, and an Italian, kidnapped in Tecun Uman on 27 September, have been released within the past few hours.

Spaniard Jose Maria Martinez, Frenchman Roberto Lisandy, and Italian Dino Rossy, who were staying at a Tecun Uman hotel, were kidnapped by armed men who took them to an unknown place.

After they were released, the three Europeans went to the regional police station and gave a full account of their experience with the kidnappers.

Martinez told the police that the kidnappers held them in a dark room and questioned them.

The three men were taken to a medical center after their release and, according to the medical report, suffered no wounds.

Officials reported that Martinez and Lisandy do business in Tecun Uman and have been living there for the past 9 months. Rossy was enjoying his vacation here when he was kidnapped.

According to the police, the persons who kidnapped the three men got them drunk before releasing them so they would lose track of time and be unable to identify where they had been held captive.

URNG Rebels Propose 'Dialogue Process'

PA0110013589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Sep (AFP)—The Guatemalan guerrillas today proposed "beginning a dialogue process and talks" among the various sectors of the country to try and put an end to "repression, terror, and violations of human rights, and to begin a real democratic process."

The Guatemalan rebels proposed holding "meetings on dates to be agreed upon, and in a country that will guarantee the necessary safety and offer its territory to hold the meetings" to discuss "vital" issues, such as how to end the repression and the internal armed conflict.

The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has also reiterated to Christian Democrat Vinicio Cerezo's government its willingness to attend a dialogue to reach an agreement on a cease-fire; however, it regrets the fact that up to now, "the president and his defense minister, General Alejandro Gramajo, have refused to accept the invitation."

Guatemalan Government and URNG representatives met for the first time in Madrid, Spain, in 1987, but the meeting ended without specific agreements being reached.

"We have insisted on a dialogue between the government and the URNG but, unfortunately, even though all of Central America is willing to hold dialogues, President Cerezo and the Gramajo clique refuse to do so," the URNG stated in a paid advertisement published in local newspapers.

In reference to the wave of violence that is sweeping the country, the URNG, made up of four rebel groups that operate in Guatemala, said that the people "are living one of the darkest and deadliest chapters in their history."

Within this context, the URNG general command "feels that it is necessary to undertake a process of dialogue and talks with all forces and political parties, with all the popular, religious, business groups, and with the honest soldiers, so that together we can find a real alternative to the current situation."

"The issues to be discussed could include—in addition to the vital issues like repression and the internal armed conflict—economic measures that would contribute to the development, without pressures or IMF measures, of a prosperous economy," the guerrilla's statement adds.

"With 16 months and a few days left in the current presidential term, President Vinicio Cerezo's government has not lived up to its promises and has only made the situation worse," the rebel communique states.

"Instead of changes—repression, terror, instability, chaos, and corruption continue, and the Guatemalan people are living in an environment of lies, frustration, and manipulation," the rebels add.

The URNG stated that Cerezo's government, the first civilian government this Central American country has had since 1970, has proven itself to be "a counterinsurgent, repressive, and terrorist regime."

The Guatemalan rebels believe that "the current government is responsible for a new wave of repression and terror that only adds to the more than 100,000 persons who have been murdered, 40,000 who have been kidnapped or are missing, 1 million locally displaced and 46,000 who have sought refuge in Mexico since 1954."

The URNG today also published a copy of a letter sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which it requests that he offer his good offices "so that a regime that respects human rights, international norms and conventions, justice, freedom, and democracy will prevail in Guatemala."

The rebels said that the government's assurance that the rebel movement has been annihilated "is not true" and added that, quite the contrary, "the popular revolutionary war has increased throughout the country."

The URNG claims that "the URNG military groups are now fighting in 11 of the 22 departments throughout the country, including Guatemala City," and have claimed responsibility for attacks on "important targets." According to its military report, the URNG has carried out approximately 688 military actions and inflicted 1,172 casualties on the Army since last April.

The Guatemalan Army claims that the rebels have been militarily defeated, and that only about 1,000 rebels are active in some isolated regions of the country.

Today's statement was signed by Rolando Moran, Gaspar Ilom, Carlos Gonzalez, and Pablo Monsanto, commanders of the four clandestine organizations that make up the URNG: the Poor People's Guerrilla Army (EGP), the Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms (ORPA), the Guatemalan Labor Party (PGT-Communist), and the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR).

Controversy Over Exiled Leaders Continues

AEU Leaders Report Situation

PA2909135389 Paris AFP in Spanish 2225 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] San Jose, 27 Sep (AFP)—The Guatemalan Association of University Students (AEU), whose top leaders were kidnapped, murdered, or had to go into hiding during the last few weeks, today demanded the international community's solidarity to contain the wave of violence that has shaken the country over the last 2 months.

Two members of the AEU coordinating board, who last week went into exile, said that it is urgent that a permament UN rapporteur be sent to Guatemala to certify continual and increasing human rights violations in the country.

The university students also called for governments and international organizations to send delegations to Guatemala as soon as possible, "to pressure the Vinicio Cerezo government to stop the campaign of terror and the bloodbath being prepared by the Army to contain student and peoples' movements."

The AEU representatives said they had evidence that the recent kidnapping of 12 student leaders, out of which 5 were later found murdered with brutal signs of torture, "was directly planned and carried out by the Guatemalan Army.

These same students believe that Vinicio Cerezo's Christian Democratic government "knows who is responsible for the campaign of terror, and it will not take action because the government is an accomplice of the military."

The AEU leaders, who did not dare give their names because their families "could suffer worse consequences in Guatemala," insisted that "the only thing remaining that Guatemalans can face the terror and violence with is international solidarity."

"The situation is terrible. The human rights prosecutor himself told us that he could do nothing to contain this wave of repression and advised us that we better seek international pressure," one of the exiled AEU leaders said.

According to them, the wave of repression over the last few weeks against Guatemalan university students "is the worst since 1978," when numerous university leaders were murdered, including AEU Secretary General Oliverio Castaneda, killed at point-blank range while heading a demonstration in the middle of the capital.

Castaneda's murder forced the AEU to eliminate the post of secretary general and modify its strategies so its top leaders would not become easy targets of repression. However, in light of the latest events, these changes seem to have had little effect.

"Because now they cannot identify any particular leader to kill, like they did with Oliverio, this time they have attacked us all," one of the banished leaders , who arrived in Costa Rica last weekend, said.

Since 21 August, when the campaign of student kidnappings and murders began, of the 16 members of the AEU executive coordinating board, three were murdered, seven are still missing, four had to go into hiding, and two went into exile.

"I was told through a friend: Your turn is on 4 September. I then had to hide until I was able to leave the country," one of the exiled told AFP with anguish.

"We really did not expect this. We thought we were going to be politically neutralized, but never thought they would order us kidnapped and murdered," another of the students admitted.

For both leaders "the Army's repressive campaign against the AEU seeks to scare the population and stop the people's movement that was generated after the last teachers' strike over the entire country."

However, they concluded, "the Army will never be able to end the AEU because to do so the Army would have to kidnap, murder, or send into exile the 60,000 San Carlos University students, the largest and oldest university in Central America."

Student Claims Refuted

PA0110170089 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 4

[Text] University Student Association [AEU] leader Oliverio Castaneda de Leon has stated that it is not true that four university students have sought refuge in Panama as a local newspaper and several international news agencies have reported.

He said that what had happened was that four students traveled to Panama to be present at an award-giving ceremony. Panama University Director Dr Abdiel Adames had invited the AEU delegates to the event and they accepted the invitation. The student representatives will return to Guatemala in a few days, he added.

Castaneda took the opportunity to advise the student body that they are not to be tricked by groups with vested interests. These groups are implementing a plan to disinform and create uncertainty among the student body. Academic life is back to normal and students continue their protest activities in different academic departments within the university demanding that the five AEU leaders that are missing, be returned. The AEU leader also stated that students still fear going to class because student leaders are constantly harassed by armed civilians.

Church Withdraws From 'Front Against Violence'

PA3009001889 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] The Front Against Violence, which was recently formed by various organizations, unions, cooperatives, associations, entities, and low-income sectors and received the support of the Catholic Church, will continue to function without the participation of the church.

The archbishop's office will reportedly remain the site for the Front's meetings and discussions, though the church will not be involved in the talks.

The Front has not yet announced its resolutions and agreements, but it is believed that it will do so soon.

A meeting of the Front has been called for this week. The church will be the only group that participated in the first session that will not be participating in the direct talks and the work commissions that will be set up.

Groups Demand Protection of Human Rights

PA2909140289 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Text] Private organizations have issued communiques repudiating the violence and expressing hope that the disappeared will soon return to their homes.

The Mutual Support Group, GAM, has strongly condemned actions against citizens' lives and liberty, which apparently government authorities prefer to ignore. This was stated in a document GAM issued demanding specific information on the whereabouts of Maria Romualda Camey, one of its members, and five student leaders kidnapped more than a month ago.

The GAM expressed indignantion over the fact that Guatemalan citizens must seek refuge abroad because they fear that their names may be added to the long list of detainees, missing or murdered. This statement implicitly referred to the case of 10 Guatemalans who left for Spain on 23 September after staying at the Red Cross building for over a month as refugees. The GAM also expressed its support for the resolution issued last week by the congressional human rights commission,

particularly regarding the appointment of a special and impartial UN rapporteur with sufficient decision-making power and no previous commitments that could influence his actions, which was the case of British Viscount Culville Kulross. [name as heard]

Meanwhile, the Guatemalan United Nations Association has issued a statement stressing that the state is responsible for protecting citizens' lives and guaranteeing the population's wellbeing. Therefore, it should do everything it can to stop the new wave of violence affecting the entire country and should make the necessary efforts to arrest those responsible for murders, kidnappings, and terrorist attacks, who should be judged and punished according to the law.

Correction to Cerezo UN Speech on 'Threats'

PA2909132089

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Cerezo Mentions 'Serious Threats Against Peace'," published in the 28 September Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 7:

First column make subslug read...President Vinicio Cerezo's 26 September speech at...[correcting date];

First column, fourth paragraph, only sentence reads...On 26 September, the people...[correcting date].

Honduras

Human Rights Spokesman Meets UN Representative

PA3009122389 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Sep 89 p 16

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Human Rights Defense Committee (CODEH), yesterday afternoon met with Peter Kooijmans, representative of the UN Human Rights Commission, to whom Custodio gave a lengthy report on cases of torture in the country over the past 10 years.

Kooijmans is visiting Honduras to examine the human rights situation in the country. He met yesterday with different segments of society that are concerned with human rights.

Custodio said that the CODEH would also ask Kooijmans to investigate torture in the country as well as the serious human rights situation, because arbitrary and illegal arrests are made and people have disappeared.

Custodio added that the CODEH will present witnesses to support information given to the UN representative.

The CODEH president was interviewed minutes before meeting Kooijmans. The press was not granted access to the room where he met the UN official.

The meeting was held at the UN building in this capital.

Meanwhile, the self-styled Authentic Human Rights Committee (COADEH), which is headed by Hector Orlando Vasquez, sent a letter to Kooijmans to advise him of the existence of this organization, which describes itself as "an authentic, neutral, independent, and non-profit organization."

In his letter, Vasquez lashes out at CODEH President Custodio, whom he accuses of "dividing Honduran society and pushing it toward an abyss of hatred and violence."

Vasquez adds that CODEH, in its short time of existence—he did not specify the founding date or the names of other directorate members—has managed to gather important documents containing reports and accounts on human rights violations.

According to the letter, there are charges against people, institutions, and against CODEH itself that will be revealed once their veracity is confirmed.

Minister To Head Government Mission to Cuba

PA3009142889 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 25

[Text] Tegucigalpa - Rogelio Ortega Andino, deputy planning, coordination, and budget minister, heads a mission that will travel to Cuba and will not return until 10 October, after it has carried out what is being called a "good will tour."

Details of the trip were scanty, but reliable sources have said that the Cuban Government invited our government to send officials from different offices to Havana in what could be the first step toward future commercial relations.

Honduras maintains no diplomatic relations with the Castro regime. These relations were broken off by the government of the late Jose Ramon Villeda Morales following repeated demonstrations by the Honduran people.

Recently, many members of the press, the National Congress, and other government institutions have visited Cuba. These visits are the bases for the establishment of relations of a different order.

It was practically impossible for the LA PRENSA editor to locate Ortega Andino for comment.

Nicaragua

Exchange of Ambassadors Proposed With U.S.

PA3009232589 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 30 Sep (AFP)—Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco today disclosed that Nicaragua has proposed an exchange of ambassadors with the United States to normalize relations

between the two nations, and as a condition to grant visas to new U.S. diplomats accredited in Managua.

In July 1988 Nicaragua expelled U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton for "meddling in Nicaragua's internal affairs," and the U.S. Government did the same with Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Tunnermann.

John Leonard, charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Managua, today discussed the freezing of U.S. diplomatic visas with Interior Minister Tomas Borge at a meeting attended by four U.S. congressmen and Deputy Foreign Minister Tinoco, who said that the problem's roots lie in the expulsion of both ambassadors.

"Our logic calls for a return to the beginning, an exchange of ambassadors, so that the expansion of the U.S. mission will make sense," Tinoco said in front of several reporters who attended the meeting.

Leonard, meanwhile, observed that this was the first time Nicaragua had expressed a willingness to exchange ambassadors, adding that he was pleased.

Nevertheless, Tinoco replied that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and Bernard Aronson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, are aware of the proposal.

Republican Congressmen Porter Goss, Howard Coble, Cass Ballenger, and David Dreier asked Borge if they could visit some prisons to get a first-hand view of the Nicaraguan prisoners' situation, especially that of prisoners charged with counterrevolutionary activities, to which Borge agreed and accompanied them to two jails on the outskirts of Managua.

The U.S. congressmen arrived in Managua on 29 September to observe the electoral process that will culminate with elections on 25 February 1990, and the voter registration that will begin on 1 October.

Borge explained to the congressmen that recruitment for active military service, which includes youths between 17 and 25, will be suspended until February 1990, in accordance with an agreement between the government and the political parties.

Borge also announced that although recruitment for reserve military service, which is obligatory for males between the ages of 26 and 45, has not been suspended, candidates, electoral inspectors, and other political activists will not be drafted.

Strong Support Given to Registration Campaign

OAS Official Arrives

PA2909150589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1340 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 29 September (DPA)—OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares has arrived in Managua to observe the Nicaraguan electoral process. Baena Soares will be present on the first day of the voter registration period that is to start on 1 October.

Baena Soares arrived at 2400 and said he planned to observe the upcoming 25 February 1990 elections objectively, as had been requested by the Nicaraguan Government.

Today Baena Soares is scheduled to meet with President Daniel Ortega, who is also the Sandinist National Liberation Front's candidate. Then he will meet with the other nine presidential candidates. He has also scheduled meetings with the Supreme Electoral Council president and other Nicaraguan officials.

Baena Soares will observe voter registration in Granada, Leon, and La Paz Centro on 1 October. The OAS secretary general will tour approximately 300 km to observe the first day of the registration period. He is to give the media a report on his visit to Nicaragua on 2 October.

Baena Soares on CIAV

PA0110043889 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Sep 89 pp 1, 5

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares said on 29 September that very favorable conditions exist for the work of the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV), of which he and the UN secretary general are members.

Baena made the remark after a meeting with the Nicaraguan Government official responsible for the contras' demobilization, repatriation, or voluntary relocation.

Participating for the Nicaraguan Government at the meeting were Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and deputy defense and interior ministers Major General Joaquin Cuadra and Brigade Commander Lenin Cerna, respectively.

Baena, who arrived in Managua on 28 September as an observer of the Nicaraguan electoral process, told the local and foreign press that "all who are involved in the process to demobilize the contras have expressed a desire to support the demobilization, and to cooperate with the CIAV."

Baena confirmed that a mission from the CIAV—which was formed after the Tela, Honduras, agreements—will visit the contra camps in Honduran territory in mid-October. However, he pointed out that because of the many duties he must fulfill as OAS secretary general, he will not be able to participate in that mission.

Regarding the CIAV, which was officially installed on 6 August, Baena said that "we have already begun working" and pointed out that his representative, Hugo De Zela, and the UN secretary general's representative, Frances Vendrell, recently visited Nicaragua and Honduras.

Baena did not dismiss the possibility of returning to Nicaragua prior to the completion of the electoral registration process. On 29 September he also met with the OAS mission to the elections.

Baena Soares, who is meeting today with President Daniel Ortega, on 29 September received from the Commission of Mothers for the Defense of Peace and Life a letter in which his help was requested in getting approval for a group of its members to travel to Honduras to search for relatives allegedly kidnapped by the contras. The OAS secretary general, accompanied by Mario Gonzalez, head of the OAS mission of observers to the elections in Nicaragua, also visited the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) and met with presidential candidates from several opposition political parties.

Ortega Promotes Registration

PA0110151889 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1413 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Statements by President Daniel Ortega to local and foreign reporters in Managua on 1 October—recorded]

[Text] Registration on the voter lists is a Nicaraguan people's achievement. The registration process is part of the election process, which for the first time in the history of our country becomes a truly political, democratic process. It is so thanks to the triumph of the revolution.

The registration process, which is part of the February 1990 elections, is also the result of the Nicaraguan people's heroism, because the Nicaraguan people have resisted U.S. aggression.

Yesterday, I went to Teotecacinte, the Nicaraguan town closest to the border with Honduras. The people of Teotecacinte have resisted the Yankee aggression. Teotecacinte is only a few meters away from Honduras, from the border. The counterrevolutionaries were unable to occupy that town. We can say that Teotecacinte represents the Nicaraguan people's resistance. That is the true Nicaraguan resistance. The resistance is not the contra movement. The resistance is the people of Teotecacinte and Jalapa. This resistance is the result of the heroism of the Nicaraguan people, who are represented worthily by the Teotecacinte and Jalapa people.

Thanks to those people, today all Nicaraguans have the opportunity to continue forward [words indistinct] with the election process, [words indistinct], and thanks to them we will also have the opportunity to vote on 25 February 1990.

In other words, thanks to the revolution, thanks to the Sandinist Front, we have [word indistinct], we have a multiparty political system, and presidential elections. Thanks to the revolution, everyone goes around inviting all the election observers they wish to invite. [words indistinct] This entire process could not even be considered before the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Finally, I would like to urge all Nicaraguans to register on the voter lists today and to continue to register during the subsequent Sundays of October, so there is a massive Nicaraguan participation in the upcoming elections. Thank you.

Citizens Urged To Register

PA0110143189 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Statement by Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, in Managua— live or recorded]

[Text] Ballot-receiving boards open at 0700 today throughout the national territory. Lists that have been published in the press show where these boards are located. Also, electoral officials have made house-to-house visits to remind citizens where they must go to register.

Citizens must register where they usually reside. They must identify their respective ballot-receiving board. Registration lines will be seen in their communities.

It is vitally important for Nicaragua and the future of our people, our children, and grandchildren that you vote on 25 February. Elections are a democratic and peaceful way to solve social, political, and economic problems. This solution leads to peace. However, to vote, you must have registered.

Today—and on three subsequent Sundays—citizens, after identifying their ballot-receiving boards, must go there with some identifying document, which can include a driving license, social security card, employment card, passport, birth certificate, or any other such document.

Citizens who do not have any identification documents can bring two neighbors who know them, can confirm their identity and attest to the fact that they are of legal age to vote. All citizens who are or will be 16 years old as of 25 February should register.

After registering, the person must request his voter registration card [libreta civica]. This voter registration card has basic information on the citizen, as given at registration: name, place of birth, sex, usual address, and also signature and fingerprint. The voter registration card is required to vote, so citizens must be very careful with it. The voter has to present this card in February; it can only be replaced if it is lost. We urge citizens to take special care of this card and keep it in a safe place so that they may be able to vote.

It is also important to remind all citizens that they register and vote at the same ballot-receiving board that is located in the area where a person usually lives; I repeat, people are to vote on 25 February at the same ballot-receiving board where they initially registered. There is only one exception to this rule—the officials and representatives that work at the ballot-receiving board itself. They can register at one ballot-receiving board and if on election day they are working as election

officials or deputies, as electoral police, or as political party representatives, they may or can vote at the ballot-receiving board where they are stationed. Also, Nicaraguans who are temporarily out of the country—they cannot be residents in a foreign country—will be able to register at the Nicaraguan consulates abroad from 1 to 22 [October]. These Nicaraguans have 22 days to register instead of just the four Sundays. Those who register at a consulate will be able to vote at the ballot-receiving board of the area where they lived last.

In the name of the Supreme Electoral Council, I call on citizens to register so they can participate in the February 1990 elections. In these elections we are to elect president and vice president; national assembly representatives; autonomous regional councils in the 7th and 8th regions, as part of the Autonomous North Atlantic region and Autonomous South-Atlantic region; and municipal councilmen to form the municipal governments in the rest of the regions, from the 1st to the 6th and the 9th. To vote, to decide, to attain peace, and to achieve economic, social, and political improvements in our country, Nicaraguans have the responsibility to vote, and to do so we have to register. Since 0700 today, 4,394 ballot-receiving boards have been open; there is one in each neighborhood and rural community.

Opposition Notes Irregularities

PA0110193689 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1751 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] The National Opposition Union (UNO) and the Democratic Conservative Party (PCD), two important Nicaraguan opposition groups, today reported irregularities in the appointment of UNO and PCD members and party poll representatives to the Voters Registration Boards in Managua. The opposition says the irregularities were caused by deficiencies in accreditation procedures.

PCD representative Sergio Torres said that over 50 PCD party poll representatives were rejected by presidents of the various voters registration boards to which they were appointed because their registration times had been written on a photocopy of the original document, and therefore were without the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] delegate's original signature.

A UNO representative said that many UNO party poll representatives lack the documents they need to be accredited by the various voters registration boards because the CSE delayed the process to provide them with the documents.

Managua CSE President Oscar Melendes instructed various CSE officials to solve the problems of the opposition groups.

The voters registration process began at 0800 today. At some voters registration boards it takes citizens up to 10 minutes to register their names in the voters' lists, while the same procedure takes only 5 minutes with other boards. According to experts, the procedure should take only 5 minutes for each citizen.

In various parts of Managua one can see lines of up to 20 people waiting to register on the voter lists.

The local media is reporting on the registration process. UNO is using Radio Corporacion to urge its members to register on the lists, and is giving orientation on how to register.

Radio Sandino, the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) mouthpiece, is doing the same, but in favor of the ruling party, while state-owned radio station La Voz de Nicaragua gives general information on the registration process.

Some observers estimate that at least 60 percent of Nicaraguan voters will register today, the first of four Sundays scheduled for the voter registration process.

On 25 February 1990 Nicaraguans will elect their president and vice president for a 6-year term from among 10 different presidential candidates, in addition to 90 deputies, and municipal authorities.

CSE To Enforce Media Law on Election Matters

PA3009161389 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Text] As of now, the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] begins to regulate all news media matters related to the elections.

The National Assembly approved that decision the afternoon of 27 September. The Interior Ministry will continue to be in charge of enforcing the Law on Nonelectoral Matters, something independent newsmen have protested.

The media law remains unchanged regarding the ban on the existence of private and independent television channels. The law does not force the government to grant radio frequencies to qualified citizens, thus giving the government strict control over radio stations and a television monopoly.

It is now up to the CSE to interpret and enforce the above-mentioned law. On 26 February 1990, the law will revert to its previous status and will be totally regulated by the Interior Ministry.

Borge Denounces Charges of Clandestine Jails

PA3009043189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Americas Watch Vice President Stephen Kass yesterday met with Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge. Kass told Borge that during his visit he had not found any of the clandestine jails that the newspaper LA PRENSA and the rightist Human Rights Commission said existed.

This is the second time Kass has visited Nicaragua. This time he was invited by Minister Borge, who was interested in finding someone who would refute the sick accusations made by the revolution's opponents.

Commander Borge said that Kass is free to go wherever he wants and that he has been provided with all he needs to do his work. Borge said that Kass told him emphatically that he had not found any clandestine jails in Nicaragua.

[Begin recording] [Borge] The Americas Watch delegation checked on the accusations that have been made. They visited some of the so-called clandestine jails, including the Women's Prison, La Polvora Jail—what is the name of that hill near Masmil? —Coyotepe Hill, and—what other clandestine jails did they visit?

[Unidentified speaker answers Borge] They visited La Barranca Jail.

[Borge] They visited La Barranca Jail, right. They visited all those places...

[Unidentified speaker, interrupting] The Juigalpa Hospital.

[Borge] Yes, they visited the Juigalpa Hospital that was turned into a clandestine jail by the magicians of the so-called Human Rights Commission and some local media. These magicians turned a hospital into a clandestine jail.

According to what the Americas Watch vice president emphatically asserted, the delegation he heads has not even found traces of a clandestine jail.

Today, the Americas Watch delegation is going to Leon City. I instructed the authorities there to let them move about freely, and I told the Americas Watch delegation members to ask as many questions as they want, not to feel uncomfortable with the presence of the Interior Ministry officials, and to ask questions of whomever they want in order to investigate these reports on the infamous clandestine jails.

The reports on the existence of these jails were presented by the Human Rights Commission, which is made up of opponents of the Nicaraguan revolution, of people who are linked with the counterrevolution, and of individuals who are closely linked to the U.S. Embassy here. Obviously, these people present partial, subjective, and ill-intentioned reports. [end recording]

Nine Parties Register Candidates by Deadline

PA3009042989 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0051 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 29 Sep (REUTER)—Nine political parties registered their candidates for president, vice president, and deputies for the National Assembly's 90 benches today, when the registration deadline for the 25 February elections was reached.

However, political observers think the true struggle for power will be waged by the ruling Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] and the National Opposition Union [UNO], which includes 11 rightist, centrist, and leftist opposition parties.

The Sandinists seek to re-elect President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez. The UNO has designated Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy. Chamorro is the director of the only Nicaraguan opposition newspaper, while Godoy heads the Independent Liberal Party.

The other parties that registered candidates are the Democratic Conservative Party, the Social Conservative Party, the Social Christian Party of Nicaragua, the Central American Unionist Party, the Liberal Party of National Unity, the Popular Action Movement/Marxist-Leninist Party, and the Movement of Revolutionary Unity.

The UNO only registered 83 of the 90 candidates for deputies, but was given until midnight to register the rest.

Gustavo Tablada said the reason for the delay was that negotiations were under way with Brooklyn Rivera and other Indian leaders, who returned to the country on 28 September, for the inclusion of several Miskito candidates. Rivera said in a news conference today that he was also negotiating with the FSLN and the Social Christian Party.

According to Nicaraguan law, the presidential candidates that fail to win but receive more votes than those stipulated for the so-called national electoral quotient, estimated at 15,000, will become members of the Assembly. According to various recent surveys, only three parties can achieve this: either the FSLN or UNO, the Social Democratic, and the Social Christian. This way, the Assembly would be composed of 93 representatives, 3 more than the current number of benches in the institution.

The February 1990 elections could bring peace to this country, where the war with the anti-Sandinists has cost 40,000 lives and thousands of millions of dollars in damage.

In addition, these will be the most closely watched elections in the country's history. There will be UN, OAS, and European Parliament observers, as well as several heads of state and former heads of state, headed by James Carter of the United States.

OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares has arrived in the country to personally observe the registration of voters on 1 October. He will report on what he has seen in a news conference to be held on 2 October.

The elections had been slated for November 1990, but they will be held 8 months in advance as the result of a consensus between the area presidents reached in a summit in El Salvador in February. Nicaragua agreed to

hold the elections ahead of schedule and foster democratic reforms in exchange for the demobilization of the rebels stationed in Honduras.

Political observers have pointed out that the election results will be determined by the votes of the Nicaraguan youth because approximately 64 percent of the total number of registered voters is made up of people aged between 16 and 35 years. The Nicaraguan Survey and Census Institute has estimated that there are nearly 2 million people in the country older than 16, the minimum voting age, and approximately 1.22 million aged between 16 and 35.

UNO Denies Charge of Receiving U.S. Funds

PA0210004189 Paris AFP in Spanish 2352 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Oct (AFP)—The National Opposition Union (UNO) has denied an accusation leveled against it on 30 October by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who said that the UNO is receiving funds from the U.S. Government for its electoral campaign through Latin American diplomats accredited in Nicaragua.

Alfredo Cesar, the UNO's leading congressional candidate, described Ortega's assertion as "deceitful," while Luis Sanchez Sancho, also a deputy candidate for the opposition coalition, described the accusation as "rash" because Ortega mentioned Latin American diplomats but failed to identify them.

This accusation, Sanchez added, "is totally empty, and since he involved Latin American diplomats, Ortega should defend it."

Meanwhile, the president said on 30 October that his government "is gathering further proof to support the accusation."

After registering this morning at the electoral registry, Vice President Sergio Ramirez confirmed Ortega's accusation, saying that the Latin American diplomats' actions constitute "a form of meddling in the electoral process."

Ramirez did not identify the nationalities of the diplomats either, but he gave assurances that a detailed report is being prepared for presentation to the governments involved.

Designates Cesar Candidate

PA2909140389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0528 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Managua, 28 Sep (AFP)—UNO [National Opposition Union] has announced that it has designated the former "contra" leader, Alfredo Cesar, as its candidate for the Presidency of the National Assembly in the upcoming February general elections.

Cesar, former Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate member and present Social Democaratic Party secretary general, was chosen during a marathon working session of the parties that form UNO—the main political alliance that opposes Sandinism.

The Sandinists have named Commander Carlos Nunez as their candidate for the post of Assembly president.

The Popular Social Christian Party (PPSC), headed by Mauricio Diaz, withdrew from UNO on 28 September. Diaz said that UNO had only offered his party a very small number of deputy candidacy positions and did not take into acount the group's election potential.

Opposition forces, however, have reported that a group—headed by the influential party member Luis Humberto Guzman—are against the party's withdrawal from UNO and are negotiating a solution to the crisis.

According to UNO sources, the alliance has "the single list of deputies for the elections almost completed." Ninety deputies will be elected in the February 1990 elections.

PPSC's Diaz Discusses Resignation From UNO

PA0110035089 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Interview with Mauricio Diaz Avila, president of the Popular Social Christian Party, PPSC, by unidentified reporter in Managua; no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Diaz] It is not like the media has reported. I did not resign from the UNO [National Opposition Union] because of a personal grudge, or because my party has been relegated to minor positions in terms of the elections. We simply realized that, given the maelstrom of political interests, the appropriate thing to do was to strengthen a Social Christian option.

Within this context we believed that the appropriate thing would be to seek an agreement with the PSC [Social Christian Party], with whom we have historical links and with whom we signed a private document about 2 years ago. On that occasion we outlined what a Christian Democratic alliance should be. We will recognize that document because it is a carefully analyzed statement and not something that was thrown together at the last minute. It will benefit one of the strongest political currents in Nicaraguan society.

This political current is being relegated to third, fourth, fifth, or sixth place within the UNO. I do not say this—it is clearly stated in polls conducted by national and international firms, independent groups, the newspaper LA PRENSA, the Manolo Morales Foundation, [word indistinct] Central American University, the Christian Democratic Organization of America; and polls conducted by organizations that are linked to the Republican and Democratic Parties in the United States.

The polls show that the Social Christians have the most followers in Nicaragua—even more than the Sandinist

National Liberation Front. It is a pity that the information is not being used to organize a Social Christian opposition as an option to achieve power in 1990—perhaps not for 1990 given our current situation, but definitely for 1996.

I believe that if we now organize a joint strategy—a strategy that will be reasserted during a meeting at the Central American Institute for Social and Political Studies in Guatemala and sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation—the Social Christians will certainly achieve their rightful place within the political reality of Nicaragua.

The people will talk a lot about this, as usual. They will say this is a Sandinist maneuver. They will say that this was done to support personal interests, but I still live where I always have. I am not Daniel Ortega's neighbor like some UNO leaders. I will always be at home, available to anyone who wishes to talk about Social Christian unity. The Nicaraguan people will be able to identify easily two flags: The one with the little fish, which is the PSC's flag; and the yellow flag with four arrows—representing North, South, East, and West—which some people confuse with a cross. These flags will have many followers, mostly in rural areas, if we agree to participate together in the elections.

We will submit a request to the Supreme Electoral Council for an extension, so that we can register as the PSC-PPSC Christian Democratic Alliance. No one is trying to take advantage of the other because our duty is to strengthen the Social Christian movement in Nicaragua and to present an organized Social Christian alliance or party to the international Christian Democratic organizations—both the Christian Democratic Organization of America [ODCA], which will hold its congress in Bogota in November 1989, and the Christian Democratic International [CDI], which recently met in Guatemala City and elected new representatives. We must organize an alliance that represents another alternative in the next national elections.

[Reporter] Will you organize talks with the other Social Christian groups in Nicaragua to strengthen the [words indistinct] alliance?

[Diaz] I have personally insisted on this. I personally delivered invitations to the four Social Christian parties in Nicaragua to participate in several meetings. On one occasion we met in Guatemala; on another occasion we met in San Jose; and the last meeting was held in Caracas. This is important because the division between the PSC and the PPSC occurred in 1976, meaning that we have been trying to establish contact with the ODCA and the CDI for 13 years. We believe that the PSC's affairs in Nicaragua were neglected after Dr Galvani's death, even though it is an international organization whose activities are followed throughout the world. The 1990 elections will indicate whether a change from an authoritarian regime to an open and democratic regime is possible.

Managua Notes Closing of Miami Contra Office

PA3009193389 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] Miami—The Nicaraguan contras closed their offices in Miami 29 September after the U.S. Government notified them that all funds for political purposes had been suspended. These offices were the contra's general headquarters in their mercenary war against Nicaragua.

Adolfo Calero, one of the main Contra leaders since 1982, complained: "This time they cut everything off," adding that "ironically the only thing they will finance is demobilization."

The decision that caused the closing of offices and firing of approximately 50 employees will also mean the end of "Radio Liberacion," a short-wave radio station that broadcast counterrevolutionary propaganda to Nicaragua.

Contra sources reported that they received a call from a "government agency" in Washington on 28 September advising them that the funds to cover the cost of their offices and political activities was to be suspended as of 30 September.

The source did not care to confirm if the U.S. Government office that issued the order was the CIA. However, many times in the past it has been said that the CIA is the agency that finances contra activities.

Some sources noted that the decision is part of Bush's policy to get the contra leaders to return to Nicaragua and join their country's new political process; some have already done so.

Minister Reports Contra Attacks in Matagalpa

PA0110201689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 27 Sep 89

[Report by Matagalpa City correspondent Andita Rivera]

[Text] As a result of their demoralization, the members of the Nicaraguan contra movement have been carrying out many terrorist actions against peasants over the past few days.

The Defense Ministry office in Matagalpa reported here that on the night of 26 September, a small group of mercenaries belonging to the Tactical Regional Command abducted peasants Gregorio Palacios Leon and Feliciano Garcia, who were in the San Jose de Bocay area, 2 km east of El Poa.

The same military source added that a similar group of guards loyal to [contra leader] Enrique Bermudez kidnapped five other peasants in Yali No 3, 15 km south of La Dalia Municipality. These five peasants were active members of the Las Vegas Cooperative and their names are unknown.

The report adds that the mercenaries are operating in groups of 10 and are threatening the peasant population with death if they do not vote for UNO [National Opposition Union] presidential candidate Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in the upcoming elections.

In addition, EPS [Sandinist People's Army] sources stated that heavy clashes between EPS troops and contras have taken place in the region over the past few hours, resulting in one dead guerrilla and the confiscation of one rifle, one backpack, and other military equipment.

Panama

Reportage on Arrest of Opposition Leader

Arias Calderon Arrested

PA0110231289 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2225 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], and eight other political opposition leaders were arrested today during a tour of the interior. They are being held at the Panama Defense Forces [PDF] headquarters in Santiago, Veraguas Province, according to reports supplied directly by PDC Vice President Guillermo Cochez to this station by telephone.

[Begin Cochez recording] Friends of Cadena Exitosa, I must report that Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC], was arrested in Santiago de Veraguas at approximately 1500 [words indistinct].

Arias Calderon, following the instructions of ADOC President Guillermo Endara, was visiting the cities of Chitre, Santiago, [words indistinct]. He met with ADOC candidates for legislative and representative posts and was about to set out for David. Apparently, he was arrested in Veraguas Province on the Chiriqui Province border and taken to the PDF headquarters in Santiago, where he is awaiting the arrival of a military prosecutor, who will establish the charges against him.

Arrested with Arias Calderon were PDC secretary general Ivan Romero; his wife Mabel de Romero; Jose Antonio Sosa, [word indistinct] of the PDC, and his wife Indira; Attorney Ramon Lima, PDC legal adviser; Luis Eduardo Camacho; Carlos Mantovani [words indistinct].

The latest report I received was at 1630, when I was informed that the vehicles used by Arias Calderon's entourage were at the Santiago headquarters and that a prosecutor—whose name was not disclosed—was expected to arrive to file charges against him in order to justify his arrest. Arias was on a political tour, and political activities have not been outlawed. They are fully authorized by the electoral code, which is also in effect.

This is the information I wanted to share with the friends of Cadena Exitosa regarding Arias Calderon, first vice president of the ADOC and president of the PDC. [end recording]

Ford on Arias Arrest

PA0210032489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0207 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Madrid, 2 Oct (EFE)—Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Ford said today in Madrid that "we will not forgive" Ricardo Arias Calderon's arrest in Panama.

Arias Calderon, the former first vice presidential candidate for the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC), was arrested today in the country's interior during a tour to explain his coalition's civil disobedience campaign, according to ADOC sources.

The Panamanian opposition leader said in Madrid that "this vile abuse is additional proof of the state terrorism that exists in Panama under the dictatorship of General (Manuel Antonio) Noriega," chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

In statements to EFE, the former vice presidential candidate in the annulled 7 May elections said that he was "disgusted" by the news of Arias' arrest.

Ford, who is in Spain on a tour of several European countries, pointed out that he is prepared to return to Panama immediately "if circumstances demand it."

Ford said: "I am not at all afraid to return to Panama, and if they are so imprudent as to arrest Guillermo Endara (former ADOC presidential candidate), I will return immediately so that they can arrest me too."

Ford belives that Arias' arrest "seems to indicate that Noriega is going to step up his repressive measures. That, however, is what dictatorships do in their latter stages."

He said that Noriega "has no internal or foreign support, which is making him desperate."

Ford said he was confident that Arias will soon be released because, he said, if he is not, "we will take whatever action is necessary" for his release, although he dismissed the possibility of adopting illegal measures.

"We have given our word that our struggle will be peaceful," he stressed.

Nevertheless, Ford said, "if our people, disgusted as they are with the Noriega dictatorship, should rebel, I will be at the head of any movement the Panamanian people want."

The ADOC leader will travel to New York on 2 October, after having visited Great Britain, Italy, and Spain. Following his visit to New York, he plans to return to Panama.

Endara: Desperation Proven

PA0210020289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0052 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Text] Panama City, 1 Oct (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Endara said today that the arrest of Ricardo Arias Calderon, a bitter critic of the regime and vice president of the Christian Democratic International, "is proof of the desperation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's dictatorship."

Endara, who in this manner made his first public statement since beginning a hunger strike 20 September, described Arias' arrest as an "outrage." Arias was arrested today during a political tour of several provinces.

Although military authorities in Veraguas Province, where Arias is presumably being held, said they were "unaware" of the incident, a communique signed by Endara gives assurances that the politician was arrested in the city of Santiago in central Panama.

Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], announced today through a bulletin that Arias will be questioned tonight in Santiago de Veraguas, approximately 250 km west of the Panamanian capital.

Cochez announced that "the charges that will be filed against Arias will include the promotion of civil disobedience among the Panamanian people, subversive activities, public disorder, and attacks against the state's economic integrity."

Endara pointed out in his communique that "Arias Calderon's arrest is another outrage by the dictatorship against Arias," the PDC, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) "and the international community."

The opposition leader said that Arias was touring the interior to explain to the ADOC's rank and file the reason for the hunger strike he has maintained for the past 12 days to promote a campaign called "not another cent" to the regime.

According to Endara, the campaign's goal is to "deny the regime the people's money, which it uses to maintain its repression and corruption."

The ADOC, which is still claiming victory in the annulled 7 May elections, has asked its followers to delay payment of taxes and public services as long as possible, and to stop buying state lottery tickets, among other measures aimed at economically blocking the government.

PDC Vice President Cochez said that Arias was arrested along with eight other people in a place called "Los Ruices," while on his way to David, near the Costa Rican border, and that he was "arrested and taken under heavy guard to the central headquarters in Veraguas Province, where he is being held incommunicado."

According to the same source, tonight a team of PDC attorneys traveled to Veraguas to attempt to talk with the detainees and, "if possible," offer them legal assistance.

Approximately 2 hours prior to his arrest Arias Calderon called the ACAN-EFE offices in Panama City to warn that his entourage was being followed by several vehicles, one of them without license plates, and also by an individual on a motorcycle.

Arrested with Arias were PDC secretary general Ivan Romero; his wife Mabel; former legislator Jose Antonio Sossa and his wife Gina; Arias assistants Luis Eduardo Camacho, Temistocles de Obaldia, Carlos Mantovani; and legal adviser Ramon Lima.

"It is to be expected that if action of this sort has been taken against Arias Calderon, similar action may be taken against Guillermo Endara, who is on the 12th day of a hunger strike," the opposition bulletin warns.

Coverage of Endara's Hunger Strike, Publicity

U.S. Officials Visit Leader

PA3009163889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1517 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 30 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—A group of high-ranking U.S. officials today visited Panamanian opposition leader Guillermo Endara, who has been on a hunger strike for the past 11 days in this capital to express "support for democracy."

The group was made up of Everett Briggs, former U.S. ambassador to Panama and the current Latin American Affairs director of the White House's National Security Council; Richard Dotson, a Department of State official; and John Maisto, charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Panama.

Briggs told the press that his government would not negotiate a diplomatic solution with Panama provisional President Francisco Rodriguez should General Manuel Antonio Noriega step down as commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP].

He added that "we will only hold talks with the representatives elected by the Panamanian people (in reference to Panamanian opposition candidates Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias, and Guillermo Ford)," who have proclaimed themselves to be the winners of the annulled 7 May elections.

The U.S. officials visited Endara shortly before attending the inauguration of General Maxwell Thurman, the new commander of the Pentagon's Southern Command, on one of the U.S. bases in Panama.

Thurman, who is 58 years old, replaces 56-year-old General Fred Woerner who was retired by U.S. President George Bush.

Endara began his hunger strike on 20 September to ask his followers to apply an economic boycott against the Panamanian Government by delaying tax and public service payments and not buying state lottery tickets.

Maisto had already visited Endara on 28 September to "say hello and express support for democracy in Panama."

FDP Commander Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega has repeatedly claimed that Maisto is mainly responsible for U.S. policy toward this country.

The U.S. official told Endara that economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. Government against the Panamanian regime to force Noriega to resign as FDP commander "already speak for themselves."

In the afternoon of 29 September, two unidentified men created panic and confusion at the entrance of the building where the Panamanian opposition leader is holding his hunger strike; they torched a garbage can and poured a liquid that witnesses believe to be acid.

The incident took place shortly after British Ambassador to Panama Margaret Bryant, who visited Endara to "wish him lots of luck" and to say, according to the diplomat's own words, that Endara's hunger strike "is very great and very meaningful," had left the building.

Arias Calderon Fears for Endara

PA3009141789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2107 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon today expressed his "concern" over the "personal safety" of former presidential candidate Guillermo Endara, who is on the 10th day of his hunger strike.

Arias said that his concern is based on "absurd and untimely remarks by Attorney General Carlos Villalaz," who said that he could order the arrest of Endara for asking his followers to boycott the government by delaying the payment of taxes and fees for public services.

According to Arias, many people, including progovernment radio commentators, have publicly called for "the arrest and exile of political figures," calls "condoned" by the authorities.

On 28 September, Villalaz said that Endara is "justifying a crime" by urging his followers to disregard the established authorities, inducing them with his hunger strike.

Arias reported that vehicles without license plates were driven around the building where Endara is staging his hunger strike.

These automobiles, Arias added, are "instruments of repression" following the people who maintain in vigil near Endara.

Arias told reporters: "We hold the de facto government authorities responsible for whatever may happen during the day or night" to Endara or any other opposition leader.

In addition, Arias told ACAN-EFE that he does not know about efforts being made with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar so that the Panamanian opposition can respond to President Francisco Rodriguez at the United Nations, after he speaks in New York on 3 October.

Shortly before a meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez in Madrid on 29 September, Guillermo Ford, former opposition vice presidential candidate, disclosed that these efforts are being made.

Incident at Center Reported

PA3009012289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0017 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Panama City, 29 Sep (ACAN-EFE)—Two men caused panic and great confusion this afternoon in front of the building where opposition leader Guillermo Endara is continuing his hunger strike. The two men set fire to a trash can and threw a liquid that, according to witnesses, appeared to be an acid substance.

The incident occurred shortly after Margaret Bryant, British ambassador to Panama, left the building. Bryant had been visiting Endara, who is on the 10th day of his fast, to "wish him lots of luck" and to tell him that, in the ambassador's own words, his hunger strike "is magnificent and of great significance."

According to eyewitnesses, a man wearing a red T-shirt threw a bag containing an "irritating substance" at the front door of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance's [ADOC] headquarters. Endara was the ADOC's presidential candidate in the annuled 7 May elections.

Simultaneously, at another entrance to the building, another unidentified person set fire to papers in a trash can, creating much smoke in the area.

Many members of the opposition who have remained in front of the building since Endara began his strike fled in disarray when the incident occurred. Meanwhile, others chased the man wearing the red T-shirt shouting "toad" (sapo, derogatory term for a government security agent.)

According to several witnesses, the man was carrying a gun, which he pulled out as he fled but did not fire.

Shortly before the incident, the British ambassador had met with Endara and other opposition leaders to advise them that she would be leaving Panama tomorrow and would not be coming back.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met this week in London with Guillermo Ford, another Panamanian opposition leader, and told him that she would not be sending another ambassador to Panama to protest the installation of a "de facto" government following the annulment of the 7 May elections.

Endara began his hunger strike on 20 September as a way to ask his followers to boycott the government economically. He has asked that the people delay paying their taxes and utility bills, and that they refrain from buying government lottery tickets.

Ford Visits Rome, Vatican; Meets With Andreotti

PA3009034789 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Panamanian opposition second vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford has concluded a 2-day visit to Rome, during which he held various meetings. He met at the Vatican with Msgr Angelo Sodano, secretary for relations with states, and also briefly with Pope John Paul II. In the afternoon, Ford met with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Guillermo Ford, who arrived in Rome from London, leaves tonight for Madrid where he will met with Spanish Congress of Deputies President Felix Pons. During his visit to Rome, Ford held a news conference after meeting with Christian Democratic International [IDC] President Flaminio Piccoli and Italian Foreign Ministry officials. Ford said the regime, which on 1 September again took over power, maintains a campaign seeking to show that there is a conflict in Panama with the U.S. Administration. That is not true, Ford said, adding that Panama is seeking the support of all European, Latin American, and Asian democracies.

After thanking the EC for the restrictive measures on trade, Ford said the Italian Foreign Ministry officials had confirmed that the Panamanian ambassador to Rome had been summoned to express a strong condemnation to the Panamanian dictatorship. Ford said the regime bases its power on state terrorism. Whoever says he does not fear for his physical integrity in Panama is either crazy or is a liar. Nevertheless, Ford said, we are commited to the Panamanian people, and we will continue our struggle for democracy. Ford said the tripartite negotiations between the United States and Panama to improve the canal were suspended 15 months ago. He also said that Panama's economic situation worsens every day because the government has reduced the country's reserves from $42 billion to $12 billion.

Regarding the future, Ford said that a face to face dialogue between the opposition and the regime is essential. He added that it will also make the international community aware of the fact that the struggle being waged in Panama is not between Noriega and Bush, but between the regime and democracy.

Meanwhile, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who received Ford in the afternoon, expressed his hope for a prompt solution to the political crisis in Panama.

At the end of his courtesy visit to Italy, Ford said that he was received as the leader of the Panamanian opposition, and that Andreotti told him he hopes that a solution to the Panamanian crisis will be found as soon as possible, and that multinational efforts will support the restoration of democracy in Panama.

On 20 September the Italian Government condemned the grave institutional crisis in the Republic of Panama following the decision to appoint a provisional government and head of state having no legal or political legitimacy. At the same time, the Italian Government expressed its willingness to support any regional process leading to the organization in the near future of free elections in which the Panamanian people's will will be effectively respected.

U.S. Soldiers Reportedly Fire on Police Station

PA0110050389 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0434 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] At approximately 1945 tonight, Hummer vehicles used by the U.S. Army South opened fire on Control Post No 2 of the National Traffic Directorate, in an area close to the community of Arraijan. According to information supplied by Sergeant Edilberto Salinas, who was on duty at the time, U.S. soldiers shot a 7-inch diameter hole in the fence surrounding the building. It is presumed that the hole was made by a grenade fired from an M-203 grenade launcher, which uses 40 mm grenades.

In addition to this shot, the U.S. soldiers also used smaller caliber weapons. A vehicle parked in the area was also damaged. A military cap with the initials E-5 LVT, owned by an American soldier, was found on the highway.

This new incident, which could have taken the life of Sgt Salinas, has been described as another act of provocation by the U.S. Army South stationed in the canal area.

Panama Defense Forces units are currently investigating at the scene of the incident to supply further details regarding this provocation.

FDP Terms Attack 'Provocation'

PA0110134689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1135 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Report by correspondent Santiago Quiros—recorded]

[Text] The Panama Defense Force [FDP] has described the cowardly action staged yesterday evening by U.S. Army South troops as an open and flagrant violation of national integrity. At 1945 on 30 September, U.S. soldiers aboard HMMV vehicles called piranhas, fired a 40-mm grenade at Control Post No 2 of the National Traffic Directorate along the road that leads to the community of Arraijan. The grenade, which was fired from an M-203 grenade launcher, according to arms experts, opened a hole 7 inches in diameter in the cyclone fencing that surrounds this traffic control post. Also, a vehicle parked in the area was damaged by gunfire that left it in an unserviceable condition.

When FDP personnel arrived on the scene to begin the pertinent investigation, they found along the side of the road a military hat of one of the U.S. troops, identified with the initials E-5 LVT.

Sergeant Edilberto Salinas was on duty at the post at the time of the attack, which could have taken his life. Last night's attack is joined by others previously staged by U.S. troops based in the canal area. The attack was termed an open provocation, with criminal intent, because Control Post No 2 has the specific task of effecting vehicular control and has no armaments.

One Killed in U.S. Army Helicopter Crash

PA0110021989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2340 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] A U.S. Army helicopter crashed this morning near Kobbe Beach, leaving one crew member dead and three wounded. The OH-60 Blackhawk helicopter took off at 0951, according to air traffic control reports.

The accident took place between 1100 and 1130, 1 mile away from Kobbe Beach, west of Panama City. The soldier's body and the three survivors were rescued by another U.S. Army helicopter. A Chinook helicopter pulled the downed helicopter from the ocean later in the day.

This is the third accident involving a helicopter of the U.S. Army, which is maintaining a state of imminent invasion against Panama with its constant flights over the country—without the appropriate coordination.

The first accident took place at Fort Sherman, where two U.S. military helicopters collided, leaving several dead and wounded. The second accident took place on 15 June when a U.S. Army helicopter, which was escorting a military convoy, got tangled in electric lines near the Chilibre water treatment plant. On that occasion, three people were killed.

Today's accident took place while change-of-command ceremony was under way at the Southern Command headquarters, during which General Maxwell Thurman assumed command from General Fred Woerner.

These "exclusive" views by Televisora Nacional's crew offer an overhead view of the beginning of the operation to rescue the American helicopter. This was at approximately 1645, only a few meters away from Kobbe Beach, which—as you can see—was militarized by the U.S. Army, cordoned off by tanks, soldiers, and heavy equipment, in another unnecessary display of military power.

For the rescue operation the Americans used special boats and frogmen to attach lines to the crashed helicopter so that it could be removed from the deep waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Girls who were at the beach were not allowed near the site of the crash, while soldiers in combat gear maintained close surveillance of adjacent streets and beaches.

The helicopter was removed from the sea in an impressive operation that was viewed by hundreds of local tourists and bathers who had witnessed the accident.

Witnesses said the helicopter would have caused death and destruction if it had crashed on Kobbe Beach or on nearby schools. It has been noted that these helicopters overfly Panamanian airspace with increasing frequency and without the appropriate coordination, thus endangering the lives of innocent citizens.

As you can see, the American soldiers occupied Kobbe Beach, which served as the base for the helicopter rescue operation. A U.S. military patrol boat remained off shore to prevent ships and small boats from approaching the site of the rescue operation.

Noriega Addresses Corregimiento Representatives

PA3009001689 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2055 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of corregimiento representatives at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Your Excellency, Republic of Panama President Francisco Rodriguez; Vice President Carlos Ozores; [Democratic Revolutionary Party President] Carlos Duque; ministers of state; and members of the parliament of the people's power, now active and convening today: [applause]

Today, when 510 men and women have been reactivated in a patriotic body that really represents the people, I bring guidelines based on experience, working guidelines based on what the communities see, value, and expect from the people's power.

In appointing the 510 men and women that make up this parliament of the people's power—the honorable corregimiento representatives—the government was fully aware of the fact that the greatest percentage of its men and women must truly represent the will of their communities. In our geography and demography the corregimiento is the basic cell of our nationality, the basic cell of what constitutes the Republic as a whole.

We feel that this government decision of reactivating and again putting the men who represent those communities at the vanguard of the struggle ... [changes thought] which is not only the struggle for nationality, but a struggle that will really reflect the subsistence and development in each community, and how each community sees those leaders, how each community sees each one of you.

A good percentage of this parliament of the people's power is made up of women. Another characteristic of this parliament is that it is made up of leaders who are

real representatives of their communities—without taking into consideration their party affiliation as a main condition.

Your quality as leaders is what earned you your post as representatives. Some communities and corregimientos opposed the assignees, whose appointments then had to be withdrawn.

This is a situation in which the only asset that counts is that of community leadership, your vocation to help, as representatives, communities that want solutions. They do not ask for much. They just want to be able to live and to develop.

Each community and corregimiento has particular characteristics, a community in the indian areas is not like a community in the capital or in the provincial capitals. For example, in Panama City the social behavior and demands of the people from the San Miguelito suburb are different from those of the people from the city itself. you will respond to the demands of your community. The people of your community want it that way. They view you like one of them. The idea is not that a representative views the people of his community as if they existed to serve his interests. No. He must view the community in terms of wanting to serve the interests of the corregimiento he represents.

The installation of the people's power is the beginning of a struggle that includes safeguarding our sovereignty and our children's future.

It is important that you break the old structures, that you take advantage of this great opportunity given you to overcome all the bureaucratic instances that only result in slowness and unfinished work. It is important that you break these structures, the traditional structures made for normal times. We are experiencing times when we cannot implement laws or follow the rules of the game of a country that is not experiencing an aggression. A country at war has war laws and makes war decisions. [applause]

The plans must be carried out. They must be carried out without complications or technicalities, with solutions that the community demands. You have two important deadlines to meet this year. First you will meet. Then you will go out to your communities to learn their needs. Then you will meet again.

On 1 October we will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties, and on 11 October we will commemorate the 21st anniversary of the revolution and the 17th anniversary of the installation of the first assembly of representatives. [applause] That first assembly of representatives was the 11 October revolution's way of viewing a real popular democracy—a real popular democracy without instances and rules issued by other countries; a Panamanian democracy that would come from far away places, made by men from those far away places, by men from the Indian reservations, the capital city, and the rural areas, men who would truly represent the desire for freedom as expressed by the various communities. [applause]

You represent the self-determination of the people. You represent the right of the people to create their own form of government. Therefore you, as leaders of your communities, will maintain this parliament, which has no reason to envy an international parliament. [applause] This parliament is the corregimiento representatives people's government.

We, the members of the Panama Defense Forces, your comrades and the president's comrades, offer you our support. We will unite all the efforts behind this popular representation to advance for the good of a real Panama, for a real people who want development and security, and who want to live in peace and freedom.

Gentlemen of the people's government, today marks a special day in the country's calendar. Whether this parlimament lives forever, as the Republic lives, will depend on you.

Thank you.

Rodriguez on Corregimiento Role

PA3009003789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2110 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Speech by Provisional President Francisco Rodriguez at the closing ceremony of the first meeting of corregimiento representatives at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] His Excellency Dr Carlos Ozores, provisional vice president of the Republic; General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]; Messrs members of the FDP General Staff; Mr Carlos Duque Jaen, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party; Messrs ministers and vice ministers of State; Mr Assistant Comptroller General of the Republic; Messrs directors of autonomous agencies; Messrs members of the political parties' National Executive Councils; Messrs governors; Messrs mayors; Honorable corregimiento representatives; Mr Intendant; honorable aldermen; special guests.

First of all, I wish to send a cordial and affectionate greeting to each and every one of you. We can see that the representatives gathered here today include new faces, plus the faces of persons who were key players in the Republic's awakening during General Torrijos Herrera's time back in 1968. [applause]

We greet that government team in uniform because they confirm once again today that they are not only members of a traditional Army but also part of the Panamanian people. They are here with the intention of making a contribution toward the achievement of a renewed homeland. We greet the FDP general staff and their commander in chief. [applause]

We greet the political representatives of the government team and the municipal and local representatives, because—as we have stated—even though we do not represent a government based on a political opportunity [espacio politico], they have offered their participation and patriotism for the sake of a renewed homeland. Greetings to you. [applause]

Gentlemen, this meeting of governors, mayors, corregimiento representatives, and aldermen is held under special circumstances for the country and our government. On one hand, everyone knows that the U.S. Government's aggression against our people has increased. This means that we must not only continue to strengthen our capacity to resist, but also firmly confront and fulfill development tasks with plans and programs that specifically and effectively meet the communities' needs. We are convinced that we are waging a just struggle, and that conviction and our faith in the national liberation process give us assurance that we will be able to resist and achieve our goal. [applause]

We are all currently facing the enormous task of giving a just and efficient form to the provisional government so that we can fulfill our pledges and carry out the construction of a genuine national democracy. The work that you must carry out in your respective areas is an important part of the task, and it must be aimed at faithfully complying with the policy of democratic participation, administrative honesty, efficiency, and permanent consultation and contact with the masses.

All these circumstances dictate a new concept of the government's function and the role that you must play, with a style that reflects the basic aspects of Torrijism, and the practical changes that an authentic Torrijism imposes on us. This must result in a renewed and loftier image of the officials who are gathered here. We must be capable of overcoming the negative actions that tarnished the province, municipal, and community authorities during previous administrations, and that negated the positive actions that were carried out. [applause]

This is an obligation that we all share so that no pretext, excuse, or justification can be used by the people who wish to change or abolish this system of government, which allows for the communities' full participation. Those people have already tried to do this, and we would be fools if we gave them reason to oust us. [applause]

Within this framework, we are interested in strengthening the post of governor as representative of the executive branch in the provinces. Governors must have authority to coordinate administrative efforts to avoid duplication of efforts or lack of efforts, and to assure that human and material resources assigned to each province are used properly.

Just as their authority has been enhanced, governors must be enterprising, must have the ability to unite the people, and must be leaders. The executive branch must be directly present in the provinces, and this presence must be of a stimulating and supervisory nature. This is why governors are irreplaceable. All of us must support them. Their work includes coordination with municipal councils, although this is limited by the autonomy that the councils must have.

Many programs can be carried out in a coordinated fashion, and they depend on central government and municipal cooperation. This government does not have room for useless disputes that produce division. [applause] On the contrary, we have to dedicate ourselves to the productive work that the country demands because there is much to be done, and all of us must make full of the 24 hours of each day. [applause]

We want provincial councils to be channels for the drafting and implementation of government projects at the provincial level, and for supervising work ordered directly by the central government. Provincial councils must be enterprising entities that will unify and coordinate efforts and supervise the implementation of national policies and dispositions.

We will look for proper channels so that bills having to do with a particular province may be discussed by the provincial councils, which will supervise, of course, their implementation once they are approved.

We want to exploit efficiently the work potential of the municipalities as well as their traditional work mechanisms. This is why we have created the municipal councils on the basis of corregimiento representatives, and have assigned additional aldermen to municipalities with less than five corregimientos.

To do this, we went through a careful selection of people. This selection process included many consultations and evaluations. We think that the people who have been chosen have much prestige and play a leadership role in their communities. You have the obligation to safeguard the leadership role you play and to be deserving of the trust that has been placed in you based on your work, honesty, responsibility, and spirit of sacrifice. [applause]

For reasons you can clearly understand, the composition of some municipal councils will have to be different in some municipalities that require this, such as the provincial capital municipalities and the municipalities of large cities.

We will again have to give special attention to those municipalities with special problems, municipalities with a low productive capacity, little availability of funds, and high poverty levels. We will soon take the necessary steps to establish the legal norms to carry out this plan.

The mayor has very important tasks to perform. His duties will include more than just supervision. He must develop himself as a leader, and his duties must not clash with the duties of the representative. Quite the contrary, both sides must join efforts and work together. [applause] This is why it has already been decided that the mayor will preside over the municipal councils. In

this manner, the mayor's actions will be better coordinated with the representatives.

We have repeatedly said that the corregimiento representatives were appointed because we feel they are essential for the operation of the Panamanian democracy. Their strong sense of Torrijism makes them agents of participation and change, something our Republic cannot ignore or put off until later. Their duties must be carried out with devotion, dedication, humility, and stripped of all arrogance and sectarianism. [applause]

The role of the corregimiento representative is to add to, participate, and supply available resources; he must never isolate, persecute, misuse or not use what the community may have to offer. [applause] The corregimiento representative must be the leader Torrijos always praised—the leader who is able to carry out many positive tasks.

We believe in rescuing and strengthening the role of the representative so that he will not only become a real voice between the people he represents and the government but also a participant in the decisionmaking process. [applause]

Within this framework, the community and local councils are called to complement the work of the municipal councils and corregimiento representatives. There is a lot of experience and valuable lessons that must be taken advantage of and learned. This is one of the most direct and authentic ways of participation, which we should keep alive as an example of democracy. The representatives must be the best men in the community; men who project a sense of honesty and responsibility; and men who are not afraid of working. [applause]

In conclusion, we wish to reiterate our confidence that governors, mayors, representatives, and councilmen will honor their appointments, and that they will become the pillars of this new republic; men who—despite the aggression, the economic and political crisis—will contribute to reconciliation among Panamanians and who will help unite everyone, a requirement for national liberation, for a Republic that emerges strengthened, that advances permanently, and that will not only recover its former levels of production and activity, but make it possible for this wealth to be more justly distributed among the people of this country. [applause]

Our generation has a historic commitment that cannot be ignored. With the participation of patriotic Panamanians, this commitment will be honored. Gentlemen, let us begin immediately and make this commitment a reality.

Thank you. [applause]

Rodriguez Marks Canal Treaty 10th Anniversary

PA0110175489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 1 Oct 89 pp A-1, C-8

[Message from Provisional President Francisco A. Rodriguez to mark the 10th anniversary of implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties]

[Text] As we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties this 1 October, it is a fitting occasion to invite citizens in general to meditate on the significance of these treaties.

It is indisputable that events over these 10 years have dispelled any doubt as to the advantages that these pacts represent for Panama. The decolonization process represented significant progress. Many of the most denigrating symbols of the mini-state that established itself within our sacred territory have passed into history.

Nonetheless, if our capacity for struggle, together with the wise leadership of General Omar Torrijos Herrera permitted these treaties to become a reality, the current moment demands that all Panamanians redouble efforts around our dearest interests to overcome the conjuring and aggression that seek to mock strict fulfillment of the treaties, and depersonalize the Panamanian state and nation.

The path that lies ahead is filled with uncertainties, but there is not the slightest doubt that the common will of the children of this fatherland will ultimately overcome all obstacles.

We love peace, and reiterate our firm purpose to continue to vigorously demand that the treaties be fulfilled, that the commitment of returning our canal and its installations to us not remain a dead letter.

This second decade of implementation of the treaties, which now begins, commits us to lending our best effort to conclude the Panamanianization of the canal, through its labor force. We must demand that the necessary canal improvements be made so that it will continue to be efficient, competitive, and useful now and after the year 2000, in such a way that it will continue to be a preferential option of maritime trade.

Likewise, we will firmly persevere in our struggle to eradicate from our territory the military installations that have surpassed their primary objective as established in the treaty—the protection of the interoceanic waterway. Instead they constitute warlike machinery that endangers the security and integrity of brother Latin American countries.

Panama will defend its just right to convert the banks of the canal into a universal center for world trade, to further unite the people of the world—a mission that we have generously fulfilled thus far. This commitment is a challenge that we must face responsibly during remaining span of the treaty, making it consistent with our struggle for the total liberation of our people.

Francisco A. Rodriguez P., provisional president of the Republic
October 1989, Panama

Government Abolishes Constitutional Statute

PA0110020989 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2325 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] President Francisco Rodriguez' government this weekend concluded the 1st 30 days of its term with a cabinet meeting at the presidential palace, at which Rodriguez' first legal decree was approved. The legal decree abolishes the Foreign Ministry's constitutional statute and related provisions, thereby establishing the temporary status of all Foreign Ministry employees. The president pledged to propose a law to replace the statute soon.

Also approved was the Panama International Shopping Complex, which is intended primarily to attract tourists through lower prices for certain products. The plan was developed following consultations with various sectors of the Panamanian tourist industry. The financial sacrifices that must be made for the new complex include the modification of tariffs on more than 100 items, the addition of 14 new items that are subject to tariffs, and the elimination of tariffs on 16 items. These tariff modifications will be compensated for from increased revenues as a result of higher import volume and the collection of other direct and indirect taxes.

The cabinet council was held on the eve of President Rodriguez' visit to the United Nations, where he will address the 44th General Assembly on 3 October at the first afternoon session.

Columnist Details Rodriguez Schedule at UN

PA3009150789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 30 Sep 89 p 8

[From the "Today in the World" column .by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Text] President Francisco Rodriguez is making his debut in international diplomacy. On 3 October in the afternoon, he will have lunch with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meet with the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group (GRULAC), and make contacts with nonaligned, socialist bloc, and Asian countries. To that end, he will host a news conference on 4 October. In a little over a month since taking office, the president will be taking a firm step in the historic struggle that he must bring to the attention of the 144 member nations of the highest diplomatic organization of our times.

Sweden Reportedly Not To Accredit Ambassador

PA3009021689 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2214 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Stockholm—The Swedish Social Democratic Government will not accredit its ambassador to Panama, (Selmen Tucker), member of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, announced today in Stockholm. Based on a statement made by a top member of Ingvar Carlsson's cabinet, Tucker said that Sweden will not accredit its ambassador to that Central American country to protest the regime's fraudulent elections. According to Tucker, the Swedish Government might also reduce its economic aid and may consider adopting joint measures with other governments.

The Human Rights Committee is currently conducting a foreign tour that will end in Sweden this week at the same time that Guillermo Ford, former opposition vice-presidential candidate in the annulled 7 May elections, is visiting Spain and other European countries.

Tucker, who represents Panamanian teachers, met with top leaders of the ruling Social Democratic government as well as with members of the opposition, which includes centrist, conservative, and liberal parties, all of which expressed their support and solidarity with the Panamanian people.

The Human Rights Committee is trying to change the general idea that some socialist leaders have, that by rejecting the Panamanian Government they are supporting the United States, without supporting the people who are facing a serious subsistence problem. Tucker said. He added that the situation in Panama is not sensational since there have been only a few deaths as a result of the political situation; however, the people are living in a state of terror and human rights violations have increased.

Meanwhile, Israel's daily newspaper HA'ARETZ has reported in Jerusalem that Israel has withdrawn its ambassador to Panama at the request of the U.S. Government.

This measure was approved at a meeting of Israeli Foreign Ministry officials, who refrained from adopting more drastic measures to avoid damaging Israeli-Panamanian diplomatic relations.

Ambassador Re'uven Ben-Eli'ezer was transferred to New York to reinforce Israel's delegation at the UN General Assembly sessions, which will continue until January.

Minister Gonzalez Asks IMF, World Bank for Help

PA3009160689 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 2200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] In Washington, Gustavo Gonzalez, Panama's minister of planning and economic policy, has asked the international financial community to help Panama face the destructive effects of coercive measures applied by the United States.

During a speech delivered before a joint annual IMF-World Bank assembly, Gonzalez said that these U.S. measures against the Panamanian people, which are unjust and politically motivated, have damaged the country's

economy. The minister said that Panama is experiencing the most difficult moment in its history. Nevertheless, Panama plans to restructure its economy, despite the unjustifiable and uncalled for coercive measures.

He added that, for those plans to be successful, we need the help of the international community to reduce the country's foreign debt to manageable levels in order to obtain new private loans and foster economic growth.

Gonzalez recalled that in June Panama was deemed ineligible to receive new IMF loans because of its payments were in arrears. This has not helped the country's situation. However, an IMF mission will visit Panama in October to assess the economic plans of Panama's new provisional government.

He added that Panamanian authorities have advised the country's creditor banks about its willingness to begin negotiations on the rescheduling of the payments in arrears.

According to Minister Gonzalez, Panama, which has been suffering a serious political and economic crisis since mid-1987, has a $3.324 billion foreign debt. With 2 million inhabitants, this means that Panama has one of the highest per capita foreign debts on the continent.

Security Reinforced at Costa Rican Border

PA2909154189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Sep 89 p 28

[From "The Griper" column]

[Text] Security has been reinforced in Puerto Armuelles, Chiriqui Province. There are reports and rumors about a suspected subversive presence along the border with Costa Rica.

Attorney General Probes Disobedience Campaign

PA2909154289 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 29 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Jaime Aparicio]

[Text] Panamanian Attorney General Carlos Villalaz revealed on 28 September that the Attorney General's Office has opened an investigation into a call for civil disobedience made by the Panamanian opposition a month ago. Villalaz said the main opposition leaders could be summoned for statements.

In statements to LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Villalaz asserted that seven people were arrested on 27 September—two of whom own the Sygma Printing House and Cosmos Publicity Agency—for "printing communiques that call for civil disobedience, the nonpayment of taxes, and crimes against the national economy."

Villalaz said that the "means used" to print the antigovernment communiques were "provisionally confiscated" while the investigations continue.

Villalaz described opposition leader Guillermo Endara's hunger strike as a "particular." Endara began his strike 9 days ago to promote the campaign against Francisco Rodriguez's provisional government.

Villalaz warned that Article 3-71 of the Criminal Code includes measures against Endara's campaign.

Villalaz stated: "Norms establish the form and the Judicial Code establishes procedures, and I abide by the norms and the procedures."

The Attorney General added that the authorities will neither allow public order disturbances or the obstruction of "free circulation."

Villalaz said: The leaders of the campaign could be summoned for statements as the investigation progresses.

Planning Ministry Issues Economic Recovery Plan

PA3009033989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Sep 89 pp A-1, B-4

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry, MIPPE, has published a report on a "recovery plan for Panama in the short term," which calls for the consolidation of the service-oriented economy, the cleaning up of public finances, and greater participation of the people in resolving the economic crisis.

The proposal, called the "Strategy for Economic Recovery in Panama in the Short Term," was presented on 18 August. It is currently being discussed by MIPPE officials, economic analysts of the Francisco Rodriguez provisional government, and representatives of the banking, fishing, industrial, agricultural, and construction sectors.

The plan proposes that the temporary steps to prevent speculation and monopolistic practices—and to obtain financing from nontraditional sources—should be made permanent.

The economic plan adds that "Panama's sustained development can only continue with an increase in productivity, efficiency, and savings; greater attention to its natural endowments and resources; and a reorientation of the country's economic policy and its international economic ties."

The economic plan calls for a "clear-cut definition" of the economic model based on "an open economy" supported by the country's geographical position, maintaining the use of the dollar as a freely circulating currency, and the strengthening of the banking system to attain 1986 production levels. The plan also calls for the beginning of talks with the country's international creditors to "conclude new agreements to restructure the debt and to discuss the reduction of both the principal and the interest rates, as well as extending payment

terms." This will reverse the effect of transferring funds abroad and will reduce service payments on the foreign debt, which stands at approximately $5 billion.

The plan also states that "the government should keep the doors open for talks with its foreign creditors on the basis that Panama will honor its debts." It also recommends maintaining the state infrastructure and incentives to the construction sector, as well as reducing the price of construction materials and revising the legal requirements for construction.

The plan also supports promoting foreign investment by developing an "infrastructure for interoceanic transportation, such as a port complex, a pipeline, and areas for the processing of goods for export."

The plan mentions several ideas for the development of the canal area, to include the railroad, and private industrial, commercial, and export services activities in Albrook, Mount Hope and France Field.

The MIPPE also recommends that an agreement be reached with the United States regarding the widening of the Gaillard Cut, and the use of the reverted areas "for rent, sale" and the granting of concessions.

Construction Activity Declines 95 Percent

PA0110044889 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 1

[Article by James Aparicio]

[Text] Private sources yesterday reported that during the 1st 8 months of 1989, construction industry activity in Panama declined 95 percent. The sources said that an estimated total of 7.9 million balboas was invested in construction projects in Panama and San Miguelito districts during that time frame.

An estimated 25,000 construction workers have lost their jobs over the past 2 years as a result of the economic recession created by the economic sanctions applied by the United States as well as by banking restrictions, and businessmen and economists do not see signs of improvement for the construction sector.

Guillermo Quijano [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, MOLIRENA, vice president] told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that "political stability and trust" as well as several provisional measures, are needed for the "construction sector to recover."

Flexible construction laws, and lowering the price of construction materials "are necessary measures," but this alone "will not reactivate the construction industry," Quijano added.

According to the statistics provided by the Panamanian Chamber of Construction (CAPAC), the construction industry experienced its worst year in 1972 when only a total of 23 million balboas was invested in building projects. In 1987, one of its best years, a total of 156 million balboas was invested in construction projects.

On several occasions it has been suggested that a mortgage bank be created to support the "reactivation" of the construction sector. However, the suggestion has gone unheard.

Commerce Ministry Denies Fuel Supply Cut

PA2909194089 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] Representatives of the Commerce and Industries Ministry and the Panama Refinery told this newspaper that the supply of crude oil—from Mexico and Venezuela—is normal, and that there will be no problem in guaranteeing an internal supply of fuel.

Commerce and Industries Minister Elmo Martinez Blanco told LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA that it is untrue that Venezuela and Mexico have cut the supply of oil to Panama. A Commerce Ministry official said that "the supply is normal, these are mere rumors to harm the government."

The Hydrocarbons Directorate of the Commerce and Industries Ministry reported that Panama receives 24,000 barrels of crude oil daily from Venezuela, Ecuador and Mexico, which guarantees enough supply to meet national consumption.

The source from the Commerce Ministry emphasized that the Panama Refinery has been buying oil directly, and currently has enough in inventory to continue to produce and supply gasoline, diesel fuel, and other oil by-products.

An executive from the Panama Refinery confirmed the statement by Minister Martinez Blanco about not having any difficulty obtaining sufficient raw material to supply the domestic market and added that "there is enough in inventory to carry out our projected plans."

Asked about reports that the refinery will demand that orders from the government be paid in cash, the executive replied: "It is company policy not to comment to the press about its relations with its clients." He limited himself to saying that reports of that type must come from the government.

Recently, the George Bush administration banned the Panama Refinery—affiliated with transnational Texaco—from paying the Panamanian Government the income tax deducted from its employees' salaries. After the measure was taken, there were rumors about irregularities in the operations between the refinery and the government.

Commander on Contras, New U.S. General

PA2909200089 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Statement by Benjamin Colamarco, director general of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification and commander of the Dignity Battalions; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Armed anti-Panamanian groups that are operating in Costa Rica are comprised of foreigners who are playing the game of U.S. imperialism. They are contras who are in the process of being fully disbanded. They are mercenaries who want to come here to cause destabilization. However, I am sure that they will not even be able to get close to the border area. We are ready to repel any foreign military destabilization and aggression. We do not fear mercenary contras.

We are willing to give our lives in defense of sovereignty. We are on alert; we are on high alert, because no one or nothing will stop the consolidation of this country's independence and the upgrading of the Panamanian society's standard of living based on respect for national dignity and self-determination of our people. This is in keeping with our goals for the year 2000.

The Dignity Brigade, which is comprised of 20 Dignity Battalions, is currently on special alert expecting new actions under orders of a new general that the United States has sent to Panama. By the way, he should have been retired, but instead he was allowed to continue serving as a general. He is a man named Thurman, and has already arrived in the country.

We know that he will order an intensification of actions. There have been some operations of which the public is already aware. We know that they are planning to reach certain areas in an attempt to win over the people by giving away candy and things like that. We know that they have prepared new manuevers. We are on special alert. The battalions are well-structured and prepared.

Other groups such as the CODEPADI [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], which is under the Dignity Brigade and especially under COPACOBRID [Dignity Brigade Patriotic Coordination Command], are also prepared at the institutional level. We are now also organizing the communities. These groups are also on special alert to repel any attack by foreign troops in our country.

Group leaders will participate in a very important meeting this weekend to establish a strategy to contain the arrogant and neocolonialist actions of the invading U.S. Army.

Our morale is very high. We are determined to say to the world that we are still upholding the flag of the fatherland and national dignity, because Panama's struggle is also Latin America's struggle.

U.S. Embassy Users Pay Electric Bills

PA2909183189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Forty-eight U.S. Embassy users have paid electric bills totaling 43,267.77 balboas to the IRHE [National Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] in contrast to the widely publicized campaign [urging people not to pay electric bills]. This sum was paid in the metropolitan area because U.S. Government officials are conscious of the commitments they have with the IRHE, because this state-owned institution does not provide its services for free.

We must point out that the IRHE is continuing its policy of suspending electricity service to residents of upper class neighborhoods who register overdue accounts or steal electricity. IRHE gives special consideration to residents of lower class neighborhoods.

Columnist Reports Terrorist Activities

PA2909184589 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 26 Sep 89 p 5

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo: "Terrorist Activities"]

[Text] Qrganized terrorist groups, until now unknown to the authorities, have for several weeks been perpetrating criminal attacks on installations of the National Water and Sanitation Institute (IDAAN). The report made public by IDAAN spokesmen has alarmed the population, which is already affected by a shortage of drinking water because of the inability to get badly needed parts to repair installations. This situation arises from the U.S. Government's brutal and demonic economic aggression against Panama, which violates the treaties between the two countries as well as international agreements, and tramples on the human rights and self-determination of the Panamanian people.

It is of general knowledge that 2 months ago members of U.S. military forces occupying Panama assaulted and occupied the IDAAN water plant in Chilibre. It is believed that during this occupation plans were devised to sabotage not only that water plant but also the other water plants that operate in various parts of the country.

Residents of Vista Alegre in Arraijan and "Las Mananitas" in Tocumen have been harmed by the activities of presumed mercenaries, who are possibly being paid by the United States to inflict damage on our country. This damage, together with the economic, political, and diplomatic sanctions, is aimed at preventing Panama from acquiring the spare parts needed for repairs, and the situation is now compounded by the terrorist attacks reported by the IDAAN officials.

We are not talking about robberies, as the incidents have been termed in the investigations already made. We are talking about the systematic and vicious destruction of vitally needed equipment that supplies Panama's drinking

water. At the same time, the United States has increased pressure at the international level to shut off access to the markets where we could obtain those spare parts.

The repeated efforts to totally destroy our rural aqueducts indicate that they are organized by experts in terrorist activities. The investigating officials insist that these are not common crimes, but instead the systematic destruction of government property so as to worsen the economic situation and provoke confrontation between the people and the authorities. Any such confrontation would be used to spread violence to other sectors of the cities at each end of the Canal, and then to the rest of the country.

The national Constitution has placed in the hands of the government the mechanisms to defend public and private property, and to detect and halt by any means possible, the terrorist activities that endanger the lives and security of citizens. Faced with repeated terrorist acts such as those that have been reported, one should not hesitate. It is either one or the other: the country's enemies, or the Panamanian people who refuse to become a colony. The choice is clear: We must destroy the country's enemies at any cost!

Station Owner Reacts to Radio Interference

PA2909124989 Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1738 GMT 28 Sep 89

["Take Note" station commentary by Exitosa station owner Aris de Icaza]

[Text] Dear friends from various parts of the country, have a nice day, and welcome to the Panamanian people's free tribune. Thank you friends.

I had promised to talk to you about some newspaper publications, which is something I do not usually do when my professional work is questioned because, as the saying goes, if you have a clear conscience, you have nothing to fear. That has been a principle that has guided my daily actions in my professional life. However, as I sometimes say to my lawyer these days, we not only have to defend ourselves from the truth—I understand that this was said by Jose Moises Castillo, a great man from La Chorrera—one not only has to have the truth, but must also be able to defend oneself from the truth. I would add something else: the fact that justice exists is not enough; we must also defend ourselves against justice, because sometimes justice is not there to defend you, and instead you must defend yourself against justice. [sentence as heard].

Therefore, today I will speak out for two reasons: first, because I am right, because I have the truth, and because I think that the person to whom I will reply today would do the same under similar circumstances within the professionalism, courteousness, and decency we are expected to observe in our careers. I am referring to Professor Rigoberto Paredes, against whom I have no enmity or antagonism. There has never been any, and I do not want anything to change the opinion he has about me. I believe he thinks highly of my professionalism because he has given me that impression. By the way, we have a friend in the United States whom we love as a brother, and that brother loves him as much as he loves me. I am referring to a great guy, whose name is Manzanero.

[Words indistinct] I will answer Rigoberto Paredes within realistic terms. I say realistic, because on 27 September he made some rash statements. I hope I am being recorded. I will repeat this now, and I hope nothing will be added to my words. I want us to have a public debate with the audience he has in the assembly or Panamanian parliament, with his audience, and also with the audience that Cadena Exitosa has throughout the country. I have earned my credibility through my own efforts, hard work, and my respect for others.

So I am going to reply to Paredes regarding what he said through the state-owned radio station, about one of the radio stations that is a part of the great Exitosa network. Paredes referred to the station that broadcasts messages and interferes with some of the commercial bands, in this case FM and AM. No television channel has yet been interfered with, however. I can handle situations in my field. Nevethelesss, I would never dare challenge Paredes in the political arena because he has earned a doctor's degree in this field during his career. He is very experienced in this field. I would not dare compete with him in this field. I tried once and had a bitter experience, perhaps for refusing to listen to sound advice. I even had to leave the country. Somebody said a very thick shell is necessary when a person delves into politics. The person must be able to digest almost anything. Unfortunately, I did not like this experiment.

So Paredes is definitely adept at handling politics. He would give me the best possible advice, as I now give him. I demand respect. In my career, I have earned a doctor's degree. Paredes himself can attest to this. Every time he has had trouble with his radio station, Radio Tic Tac, I went to his rescue. For instance, when a transformer blew up, I went to his assistance. When this happened, I always assisted him unselfishly. I lent him a transformer once or twice, without billing him. I think we should be colleagues and act unselfishly. This way we can forge ahead. This is how I have worked, and not only with him, but with many others. I have assisted anyone in need of a tube, for instance. Sometimes I have even deprived myself of this tube and have been criticized because it has been said whoever gives what he has must then borrow from someone else. I even lent him one or the other of my own three technicians.

These boys are excellent, and I have treated them as I would my own brothers. I used to have three, but now I only have two. They are professionals. Local technicians usually ask them to advise them, despite the fact that they are Panamanians. In other words, I act unselfishly in my professional career. I serve others gladly. Let me repeat that I will not permit anybody to meddle in my

professional career, because I have earned a doctor's degree in this field, just as Paredes has earned a doctor's degree in his own field as a politician. I will not question him. After all, politics are like that. I have no right to meddle in politics. If and when I meddle in politics [words indistinct]. Whoever fights in the political arena must do so honestly. In Panama, however, many years will have to pass before the winner and the loser congratulate each other in a political campaign where victory is determined by the votes received rather than by the sympathy either of the two sides enjoys. In such an honest victory, the loser congratulates the winner and expresses the desire to cooperate. Here is my hand, so to speak, and let us go on working for the country, which demands the best from its sons. It is the people and the community who elect the officials through this highest expression of will which is called voting. But let us not enter into this argument.

Paredes said yesterday that the report that our stations had been interfered with was all a lie, a story. I think this is not a story because the cassette used to air a message through our stations was also used to interfere with Onda Popular, owned by Ramon Sieiro. Another station, Estereo Azul, owned by Villalaz, the prosecutor general's brother, has also been interfered with using the same message. Radio Nacional has also suffered the same interference. Rigoberto should know that there are decoders these days [words indistinct]. There are coders and decoders. When a foreign signal interferes with the station, the decoder prevents the signal from reaching the public through the broadcast. Other stations that suffered from this same interference are Radio BB, Estereo Bahia, FM 99, and many others. Radio Nacional also said that some of these stations work openly for the regime and do not have to participate in or permit this.

My friend Rigoberto Paredes: There are three kinds of frequencies or bands. There is AM, which starts up, if my memory serves me right, at 530 khz at the left of the dial and goes on to the last frequency, which is 1650 khz. I will now explain why it is impossible to interfere with Radio Tic Tac. If you have an AM transmitter, you would have to have an antenna 300 feet high. This AM transmitter would have to be very powerful, maybe 1,000 watts. However small, this transmitter is physically nearly the size of a room. And there are 15,000-watt transmitters. In addition, it would have to be [words indistinct]. Because these broadcasts are bogey, the transmission [words indistinct]. Consequently, those persons working on this cannot possibly be using AM.

Let us now consider FM, on which you also broadcast. I will now explain to you why your station and others are not interfered with on this band. The transmitter would have to be nearly the size of a car. The antenna would have to be nearly the height of Banco Exterior. So this foreign station would not be easy to conceal. If the interfered station's transmitter is 100 watts, for instance, the only way to interfere with it would be to use a transmitter capable of handling two or three frequencies. And all of Panama would become aware of its existence because its antenna would be the height of Banco Exterior. You will have noticed that all FM antennas are erected on a hill or a tall building. This band operates, again if my memory serves me right, from 88 Mhz to 108 Mhz. I think this last is the frequency used by Radio Omega or Omega Estereo. You see, this is why I cannot permit you to meddle in my field, where I won a doctor's degree. I am familiar with everything, from the bulb of an antenna to the little screw securing the turntable's needle. This is why the radio stations broadcasting on FM can never be interfered with this way.

Let us now see how the radio stations I referred to previously, including Radio Nacional, were interfered with. These stations broadcast in a band ranging from 200 to 300 mhz. A number of stations, which used to broadcast on FM, now transmit on this range of frequencies. The stations included Onda Popular—Radio Nacional is no longer interfered with because it has a decoder—Radio BB, Super Si, Estereo Azul, Estereo Bahia, FM 99, and others. The transmitter necessary to interfere with these stations on this band can be the size of a purse. This is similar in size to the portable receiver some people carry when they go to the beach. The transmitter only needs an antenna the size of a pencil. This is why the stations can transmit on AM and FM. Whoever is interfering, is doing so with a transmitter the size of a purse, a portable radio. It is so small it becomes invisible. This is also why your station is not being interfered with. This powerful little radio is placed under the [words indistinct] or near the transmitter and immediately interferes. Whoever is using this band, and all of the people in the media should know this... [changes thought] I would ask you to consult even the worst possible engineer in this country—and there are many—and he will tell you I am right. As I said before, stations broadcasting on FM are not being interfered with because the antenna would have to be as high as a building and the transmitter would have to be the size of a car or a room. The antenna would be seen all over the country.

I would greatly appreciate your reconsidering the things you said yesterday, although I am not sure if you mentioned my name. The station interfered with yesterday was Super Si. Whoever the shoe fits should wear it. This clarification is based on the fact that in this professional career of working daily I have earned the people's sympathy with total devotion. We continue to serve IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute], Banco Nacional, and the country. I have a challenge right now on how to activate the economy. We Panamanians have to struggle, and you own a radio station. We serve in this profession, as Jorge Rodriguez Auerbach; all stations, from the smallest to the largest, must work together. We must struggle for a cause. We must always seek a cause to be united—to serve the homeland with truth, leaving base passions, selfishness, and vanity out. Just as I would not dare challenge you in the political field, I would like to talk with you, the next time your engineers come to me, on whatever subject you like, honorably and decently, correctly, and professionally. My best advice is to respect this great industry, which

has made us noble and great. We include this in our daily prayers. We always strive for truth. I am under the impression that you did not intend to do it. So now you know why your radio stations and mine, as well as others, are being interfered with. I do not think these stations have this cassette. Radio Nacional has a decoder. I would not dare make a bold accusation against you or anyone. This antenna of the light of freedom is free from envy. We hold the interests of the Panamanian people in a foremost. I am asking you to respect me, just as I respect you. I have earned the respect of a great audience through my efforts.

I hope I have clarified why your station is not being interfered with. These stations use UHF, frequencies that have been assigned by the Ministry of Government and Justice. I hope I have replied to what you said yesterday.

Thank you. I am willing to serve you always, anytime.

Argentina

President Concludes Activities in U.S., Returns

Visit to USSR Possible

PY2909173589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1541 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (TELAM)—A source in the Argentine delegation that accompanied President Carlos Menem to the United States has revealed here that a trip by Menem to the Soviet Union "is possible."

The source said that as part of Menem's many international contacts, a trip to the Soviet Union is "absolutely" possible.

He added that Presidential Secretary General Alberto Kohan will leave for Moscow in November 1989 and that his trip could be interpreted as "a step toward arranging Menem's trip."

According to the president himself, at the end of October he intends to leave for Costa Rica to attend celebrations marking that nation's 100 years of democracy, and then to visit Houston, in the United States, heading an Argentine delegation that will seek to strengthen the petroleum and investment plans the government has implemented.

Menem added that during the first months of 1990 he intends to visit Israel and some Arab countries, in compliance with the good offices gesture he has made to achieve peace in the Middle East.

No dates for Menem's probable visit to the Soviet Union were mentioned, and the source said: "The trip will be made whenever the president decides."

Menem Meets Shevardnadze

PY2909201889 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1950 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (DYN)—President Carlos Menem is currently meeting with USSR Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. This is Menem's last meeting of his 6-day official visit to the United States.

At 1527 local time (1627 Argentine time) Shevardnadze entered President Menem's suite on the 41st floor of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

During this meeting Menem and Shevardnadze will discuss bilateral relations, and the actions of the Argentine Government to curb hyperinflation and reactivate production.

This meeting will be Menem's last here because an encounter with Colombian President Virgilio Barco, who is speaking before the UN General Assembly, has so far been ruled out.

Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo is accompanying President Menem in his meeting with Shevardnadze.

Comments on Meeting

PY3009013889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2340 GMT 29 Sep 89

["Special report" by Fabian Dabul]

[Text] New York, 29 Sep (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem announced here today that "if everything goes well" Argentina will receive investments totaling "$15 billion" over the next 5 years. Menem made this announcement shortly before leaving for home after a 6-day visit to the United States.

Menem ended his stay in the United States today with a meeting with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. The meeting took place at Menem's suite at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. At the end of this meeting the USSR foreign minister said that the two had discussed bilateral trade, the Malvinas issue, and the willingness of both parties to mediate in the Middle East conflict.

Shevardnadze conveyed Mikhail Gorbachev's greetings to President Menem who responded in kind and also sent greetings to Gorbachev's wife.

Shortly before leaving for Argentina, President Menem stated that "right now one must close one's ears to the applause that comes with success and to the laughter that accompanies failures." However, he did acknowledge that "this tour has been successful to a point, but we must remain calm and objective because that is the best way in politics."

Menem reiterated that during his meeting with Shevardnadze, the two talked about Argentine-Soviet relations and about the need to "strengthen and expand these relations and to improve and expand existing agreements."

Menem added: "The Soviet Union wants to even out the trade balance between the two countries because currently this balance is very favorable to Argentina."

He said: "We also talked about the detente that is taking place in the world, the peace proposal for the Middle East, the foreign debt, and Argentina's reestablishing relations with Great Britain."

At the end, the Argentine president did not rule out a meeting with Gorbachev in Moscow, but Menem explained that this must be "discussed in advance to establish the dates and agenda."

Requests U.S. Policy Review

PY2909118489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 28 Sep 89

[By NA special correspndent Fabian Dabul]

[Excerpts] Washington, 28 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem today asked several U.S. congressmen to review the restrictive U.S. policies on military assistance to Argentina. Menem stressed his government's austerity efforts to put the economy back on track.

Regarding the strategic issue of weapons sales, Menem asked the U.S. legislators to help "review" the current policy of restrictions that has been in effect since the 1970's, the terms of which were hardened following the Malvinas Islands conflict.

The U.S. Congress—considered the key to any lifting of the military embargo—has been reviewing the issue of weapons sales to Argentina for some time and has already authorized a few small shipments of military equipment.

The development of the Condor II missile provoked strong opposition in Congress and, according to reports today, the project was practically shelved after Menem met with Bush.

Menem's request for a congressional review of the U.S. policy on military assistance to Argentina was made during a meeting with Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy. Kennedy said that Menem is "one of the most important world leaders" who "in a very short time has been able to write a new chapter" in Argentine history.

Menem met with Kennedy in an office in the Capitol building only hours before going to New York after a 2-day stay in Washington. Menem also met earlier with Senators Robert Dole and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell in the same office.

Menem had previously discussed the issue at a meeting in the House annex building with a House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee delegation headed by Florida Democratic Representative Dante Fascell. [passage omitted]

Argentine correspondents were prevented from interviewing Senators Dole or Mitchell, but photographers and camera crews were allowed to take pictures.

Menem's entourage during the meetings included Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, Economy Minister Nestor Rapanelli, Air Force chief Brigadier Jose Julia, Secretary General of the Presidency Alberto Kohan, spokesman Humberto Toledo, Argentine Ambassador Guido di Tella, and his counterpart Terence Todman. [passage omitted]

Menem discussed "the austerity measures that are being implemented in Argentina, and the current limitations on military assistance" with Senator Kennedy. Menem asked the senator to help "review" the issue.

The Argentine president then attended a luncheon with the Foreign Affairs Committee members, his entourage, and Argentine Senators Juan Carlos Romero and Florencio Tenev. Menem will return to Argentina tomorrow night to welcome the repatriated remains of Brigadier Juan Manuel de Rosas in Rosario on Saturday. [passage omitted]

U.S. Embargo Lifted

PY3009131889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1132 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)—The U.S. Senate has decided to lift the Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment that has prevented Argentina from purchasing military materiel in that country.

This information was confirmed to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo, Air Force Chief Jose Julia, and presidential spokesman Humberto Toledo shortly before their arrival at Ezeiza Airport.

The sources said that after the prohibition is lifted Argentina will be able to buy spare parts for U.S. equipment already in the country and to renew its military equipment.

On 28 September President Carlos Menem asked that the U.S. Senate lift the amendment establishing the embargo. Shortly before boarding the plane to return to Argentina, Menem received a telephone call from Washington announcing the lifting of the embargo.

The Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment, which had been adopted to sanction the military regime for human rights violations, has prevented Argentina from purchasing U.S. military equipment.

Menem Returns From U.S.

PY3009123789 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1118 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem arrived at Ezeiza International Airport shortly after 0730. After a short delay, the president boarded the Tango 01 presidential plane to fly to Rosario, where he will head the ceremonies marking the repatriation of the remains of Brigadier General Juan Manuel de Rosas.

Menem and his entourage arrived at Ezeiza in a TC-91 plane that flew directly from New York.

Comments on U.S. Action

PY3009134689 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1220 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)—President Carlos Menem said today that Argentina will sell missile-equipped frigates and submarines to the FRG and will purchase military spare parts from the United States.

In remarks at Ezeiza International Airport just before boarding the plane on his way to Rosario, Menem stated that "the most important thing is that after many years the Humphrey-Kennedy Amendment has been lifted.

This amendment had prevented us from having access to important materiel markets in the United States."

The amendment also stipulated "a prohibition on the sale of some elements that are available in Argentina, such as the missile-equipped frigates and submarines for the FRG."

Asked whether Argentina will buy weapons from the United States, Menem said that we will initially purchase only spare parts, but "if the purchase of some weapons becomes necessary, we will buy them."

He added: "It is also very possible that we will sell weapons such as tanks and the Pampa plane to the United States.

He then stressed the importance of the $1.4-billion bridge loan that the IMF will grant to the country.

Menem said that "we will continue to negotiate with the other international organizations" in seeking economic aid. He said the possibility of obtaining foreign investment in the country was "exceptional."

"Countries such as the United States are very cautious in discussing aid to other countries, but in this case, from the President on down, officials have accepted the Argentine Government's economic policy and expressed their unconditional support for what we are doing to achieve economic growth," he said.

He said that "a visit by President George Bush to Argentina was also discussed," but explained that "the visit is still far in the future." [passage omitted]

Kohan on U.S. Decision

PY3009161989 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1206 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (TELAM)—Secretary General of the Presidency Alberto Kohan has stressed the "excellent consensus" abroad regarding Argentina. He added that the lifting of the amendment that had limited the sale of weapons to Argentina is a "clear demonstration that the U.S. Administration has confidence in Argentina and in this government."

After arriving at Ezeiza International Airport at 0815 aboard the TC-91 presidential plane from the United States, Kohan answered some questions from reporters. He said: "There is confidence in Argentina, and not only in the work of the government."

"The lifting of the embargo should not be interpreted as a military reequipment project. This is also a clear sign that the U.S. Administration has confidence in Argentina and in this government," he said.

He said that the country "is regaining confidence" and that this is very important because "the whole world is looking for places that can provide tranquillity and stability."

Kohan added that "much is known about Argentina abroad" and that the country is considered an "excellent opportunity for investment."

Cavallo Sees Change in UK Falklands Position

PY0109012889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2325 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)—The Argentine Foreign Ministry has interpreted British Foreign Secretary John Major's remarks that sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands "will be discussed some time in the future" as "a change of attitude by Great Britain."

Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo told NA that the United Kingdom "is interested in restoring diplomatic relations," and he characterized as "very important" the British acknowledgment that "there is a sovereignty dispute."

Cavallo noted that in remarks to the U.S. press, the British foreign secretary said that the sovereignty issue will not be discussed during the 17-18 October talks in Spain, but that the issue "will be discussed some time in the future."

Cavallo said: "This reflects a change of attitude by Great Britain, because its earlier position was that the sovereignty issued would never be discussed because it was a closed subject." He added: "They have now acknowledged that there is a sovereignty dispute. Although they are not willing to discuss the issue now, they see the possibility of discussing it in the future. That is very important."

The Argentine foreign minister emphasized that their 6-day visit to the United States "was instrumental in helping develop a friendly relationship between Presidents Carlos Menem and George Bush and between Secretary Major and myself. All this is very important for our international relations."

Cavallo said that at first the British secretary "proposed that we confirm that the sovereignty issue was to be left aside during the talks, but I objected to his proposal on the grounds that we had agreed that the issue was to be placed under an umbrella, which means that both parties acknowledged the sovereignty dispute and preserved our respective interests."

Cavallo said that Major had told him that they "are interested in restoring relations because they want to reestablish contacts among the islanders and the Argentine people on the mainland."

Cavallo conveyed the Argentine Government's belief that "only by restoring trust will it be feasible for us to recover the islands in the future and to exercise our sovereignty rights over them, always respecting the interests of the islanders."

Cavallo, who accompanied President Menem on his visit to Washington and New York, added: "To make it

possible for the islanders to accept our positions, we need to trust each other; there can be trust as long as the danger of military conflict exists."

Regarding the official talks to be held in Madrid on 17-18 October, Cavallo confirmed that the Argentine delegation "will be led by Ambassador Lucio Gonzalez del Solar" and that Crispin Tickell will be the main British negotiator.

Fernandez Named Central Bank Vice President

PY2909172389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 28 Sep 89

[By special correspondent Luis Mendoza]

[Excerpt] Washington, 28 Sep (TELAM)—Economy Minister Hector Rapanelli has reported here that Economy Ministry Adviser Roque Fernandez has been appointed vice president of the Central Bank.

Fernandez replaces Erman Gonzalez, who was nominated minister of public health and social action following the death of Julio Corzo. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Zamora Addresses UN General Assembly

PY2909131689 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1921 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Speech by President Jaime Paz Zamora to the UN General Assembly in New York—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I want to talk about Bolivia of the 20th century, about Bolivia of the 1950's, when it began its extraordinary national revolution, which echoed in great debates in this same UN General Assembly. This national revolution laid the foundations for the Bandung Conference—in which Bolivia participated—where had gathered the leaders of Africa and Asia who were at that time in the midst of the decolonization struggle.

I would also like to talk about the current situation in Bolivia. Bolivia has made an extraordinary effort during the last few years and has defeated the scourge of economic instability through a process of economic and financial reform. This process has been studied and admired in the entire world. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the peasants, to the workers, to the men and women of the middle class of my country, to the humble, and to the poor because they are the ones who have borne the dramatic burden of the process of economic and financial stability.

I ask myself now how many deaths have been caused by acts of violence. I ask myself if in the civil wars that are raging in several countries of Latin America, more children are dying than those who died in the acts of violence that my country had to endure in the process of its economic and financial stabilization. Another problem is here set forth for contemporary democracy, particularly in poor countries: how to reconcile democracy with economic and financial stability. This is a challenge for the whole UN system, because our democracies are becoming defenseless in the face of economic crises, hyperinflation, and instability. These economically and financially defenseless democracies are also a responsibility for the international community.

In addition to the process of economic and financial stabilization, our country—in this stormy Latin America that is trying to advance down the road to democracy—has consolidated its democratic process. We can proudly say before all peoples of the world that Bolivia today has a consolidated democracy. This process was carried out in keeping with our national character and laws. Democracy was stabilized through a meeting of the minds of all Bolivians. A patriotic agreement of the majority of Bolivians paved the way for a government of national unity, which brought together men and political organizations that have been in confrontation for nearly 20 years.

This was only possible because of stage of Bolivian political life, which began in the 1930's international crisis and the Chaco War, was left behind. It also was possible because today in Bolivia a new cycle of national politics has begun, as Bolivians reject conflict and confrontation while they seek consensus, agreement, and coordination as the basis for politics in a democracy that looks toward the future. This is what we have begun to call in Bolivia the revolution of democracy, a revolution that is taking place around the world. In such democracy it is no longer possible to maintain single parties or hegemonic parties or hegemonic factions in political life. In the revolution of democracy, all of us are required to share and seek agreement.

When we in Bolivia achieved that solution, our Polish brothers achieved another solution. Before that, we had an example in France of how ideologically and historically opposed forces could share power within a democratic system. (?At this point) when economic and financial stability has been attained with such heavy sacrifice, and when political stability has been consolidated, Bolivia, on a continent where in the last decades democracy was an exception, can claim to have succeeded. Here I must point out that the entire national community and all our institutions contributed. I also must point out that the Bolivian Armed Forces, which have been viewed by the international community as a permanent factor of instability in our country, are today, together with all Bolivians, an institution that serves as solid base for contemporary Bolivian democracy.

Also, our humble country has also managed, through special efforts, to find a practical solution to a problem that has been much discussed and that is again being discussed at this General Assembly: external indebtedness. In the last 24 months our country, in the midst of its economic crisis, and its democratic transition, was able to honor and get rid of almost 30 percent of its

foreign debt. The foreign debt included the debt to the international private banks, worth $300 million, as well as the bilateral debt.

This was made possible by the will of Bolivians and their government, but also by an enlightened international cooperation that paved the way for renegotiations with the international private banks on terms favorable to the country. This was also made possible by the happy circumstance that, within a short time, governments with faith in Latin America emerged in both Bolivia and Argentina. Believing in Latin Americanism, these governments treated their mutual debt in a way that they have been recommending to the industrialized countries for many years. They applied the basic principle that some debts are at this time unpayable and must be addressed with political will and decision. So President Menem of Argentina and the president of Bolivia made the political decision to mutually cancel debts that have been accumulating between the two countries in recent years. [passage omitted]

Mr President and esteemed delegates: I also want to discuss other problems that my country if facing, problems we share with the international community: illegal drug trafficking, despoliation of the environment, and poverty. We all know that drug trafficking is an old problem, but we must congratulate ourselves that the international community has recently become more aware of the danger and of the fact that it affects not just a few but all countries as an international community. This represents a great advance; it is important that the ordinary U.S. citizen, who perhaps has a drug addict in his own family, should understand that at the other end are Bolivian peasants who also face an equally critical problem from a moral and humanitarian standpoint, as well as a question regarding their quality of life. It is also important that the Bolivian peasant understands that, just as it poses a major problem for him, drug trafficking represents a life-or-death problem for people in the United States and other parts of the world.

I believe that this awareness regarding the scope of the drug problem is an important advance for the international community and should be commended. The Vienna Convention has been a step forward in that advance, as is President Bush's plan here in the United States. This new understanding of the dimension of the problem, however, perhaps is not in accordance with the amount of economic resources being allocated to the execution of this plan. If the international community wants to know Bolivia's opinion, I have to say that the Bolivians are stating their truth in this forum. We are convinced that the problem requires that we speak truthfully about it. We must tell each other the truth.

The worst thing that can be done is to treat with formality a matter that is so important for humankind.

The first truth I want to make known to the international community is this: We say that we are in an all-out war against drug trafficking. I ask myself whether this is a war we are determined to fight or whether we are calling it a war just as a formality. If we are at war, we must have the resolve to win it. [passage indistinct]

From our point of view, it is very important to distinguish between consumer countries and intermediary countries, on one hand, and raw-material producing countries on the other. If we do not make this clear distinction, we will not be planning the war appropriately, and we will run the risk of complicating things even more than they are now. Drug trafficking and foreign debt are analogous problems in that they are both of interest to the international community and both call for a common strategy that must be jointly carried out. Each country has its particular problem with drug trafficing, just as with the foreign debt. Bearing in mind the specific and common aspects, we must say that for the consumer countries, prevention is fundamental; for the intermediary countries, interdiction is fundamental; and for poor countries where the raw material is produced—as coca leaves in Bolivia—offering an alternative method of development is fundamental.

Alternative methods of development should include crops that will become the mainstay of coca growers. Thus, we should fight consumption with prevention; intermediaries and marketing with interdiction; and production of raw materials with resources for alternative development.

We should be able to have markets for these alternate products because, as the Bolivian president, I would not dare tell the Bolivian peasants that have to stop growing coca, which is their source of income, to start growing another product that will give them less benefits and for which they still have no buyer because no international market is ready to receive these alternate products.

I believe it is paramount to make this problem quite clear so that we can earnestly address this problem. This is a real war that we should all wage together.

In talks I held here with a number of presidents and other officials, especially with Presdient Bush—with whom I held a pleasant talk and in which we established a mutual respect—I said that their best way to contribute to fighting the drug trade in Bolivia is by investing in Bolivia. The drug trade is closely connected to unemployment and economic crisis; the drug trade in my country is also linked to poverty, to critical poverty.

Therefore, just as it would be a mistake to think that the Bolivian problem is merely a problem of repression, it would also be a mistake to think that the U.S. drug problem is merely a problem of replacing crops or carrying out alternative development. We should look at the situation in its correct context. Fortunately I have recognized that the U.S. President, as well as others with whom I talked in this country and representatives of other nations, have a clearer understanding that we must approach this problem together. But in this process of harmonizing ideas I would like to say here before the

international community that Bolivia is willing to mobilize its national will and to commit itself in an all-out struggle against drug trafficking.

Bolivia is willing to do this based on its national reality in coordination with the international community. We would only ask that, taking into consideration our national concepcion of the problem, each country take the initiative within its borders; this is a task we cannot expect others to do for us. Each country should directly address this problem. Bolivia is committed to doing its part to carry out the struggle within its territory; we only ask the international community to cooperate. We will agree to the international community montoring Bolivia's progress in the struggle they wage within their own territory.

The Bolivians will assume their own responsibility in the fight against drug trafficking within their national territory. We expect to receive international cooperation because our country is poor in resources and infrastructure. We need international cooperation for our development, and we expect the international community will judge us by the results we achieve in this struggle. [passage omitted]

Returns From United Nations

PY3009023089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Excerpt] While I was in New York, my thoughts constantly turned to our national reality, and my sentiments were in tune with all Bolivians, said President Jaime Paz Zamora upon his arrival at El Alto International Airport. Paz Zamora was returning from New York where he attended the 44th UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

Minister Terms Bennett Plan 'Comforting'

PY3009210489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Sep 89 p 7

[Text] Campesino Affairs Minister Mauro Bertero has said that the U.S. strategy to fight drug trafficking, also called the Bennett plan, is comforting in that it opens new room for the previously polarized relations with Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia—that is, with the coca producing countries.

"President Bush's new view of the problem is that producers and consumers share responsibility. This new emphasis will help in the search for solutions," Bertero said.

Bertero said that the basic principle of shared responsibility is a good beginning for the drafting of a realistic long-term plan of economic and social action. Bertero added, however, that emphasis should be placed on the implementation of alternative development and social investment programs in order to protect peasant economies whenever peasants participate in coca plantation replacement programs.

"It is undoubtedly a crucial moment for Latin American governments—particularly the Colombian, Peruvian, and Bolivian Governments—which are making decisions on this issue. Some of these decisions have provoked violent reactions, such as the drug traffickers' declaration of war against the Colombian Government."

"We express our total solidarity with the Colombian Government and people and reiterate our conviction that the problem of drug trafficking corrodes the very foundation of society. Operating on this belief, we appeal to the international public: May producers and consumers meet together to draw up concrete programs based on solidarity, cooperation, and integration."

Minister Bertero told PRESENCIA that he is sure the plan will become a reality, particularly the alternative development programs and the creation of guaranteed markets for peasant production.

Editorial Views Bennett Plan, 'Minisummit'

PY2909164489 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Sep 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and the Bennett Plan"]

[Text] The idea that the presidents of Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia will hold a minisummit to adopt a common position on the U.S. President's proposal known as the Bennett plan has gained force over the past few days. The Bennett plan is an important initiative; under the current circumstances, nothing would be more regrettable than to see each country pursuing its own vested interests.

Although the drug problem has its own characteristics in each country, there are common elements that can help to outline a consensus policy. The decision to confront this evil has already been made. What we need now is to find an effective method that will also reflect the characteristics of drug trafficking in the region.

The Bennett plan is the result of the U.S.' interest in eradicating drugs and preventing them from causing irreversible damage to youth. It includes many domestic policy elements and has generated all kinds of proposals from the people of the United States. The plan may still undergo some changes in content after being analyzed in Congress. If our governments present clear objectives, the forthcoming negotiations will be much easier.

There is no doubt that the current situation in Colombia is quite different from that in Bolivia or Peru. In Colombia they are confronting an established power that handles a business with transnational characteristics. The U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES feels that the victories in the struggle against drug trafficking will be short-lived because they are somehow struggling against the laws of economics.

The fortunes and profits that this illegal traffic generates worlwide encourage other traffickers to resolutely take

the place of those arrested. It will be important to ask that the fight be directed not only against the origin of the business but the final destination as well.

Colombian President Virgilio Barco has been very clear in stating that "consumer" countries do not show the same enthusiasm for fighting such as the Netherlands and Great Britain are very permissive with consumers, while in some zones in the United States the cultivation and consumption of marijuana is legal.

The so-called "producing" countries have developed a common view at international forums such as Vienna. But it is no longer the time to make speeches but rather to get to work. If our governments do not decide on how to fight this war, others will do it for them.

The summit must closely study the rules of the game. The fundamental right of all countries and citizens to their good name and reputation must be emphasized. Our countries have a dignity and cultures that transcends the ill fame imposed, but this is often forgotten.

Another important issue is the alternative markets. Coca is now the only product that is not subject to laws that can be manipulated from the power centers, as is the case of coffee, sugar, cacao, and other products whose prices have gone down the drain in the recent past. It is not for nothing that many have called it a panacea in this period of crisis.

There are many details such as these that, we have no doubt, will be discussed at the summit that the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru are preparing for the 1st days of October.

Interior Minister Views Coca Replacement Program

PY2909165989 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Sep 89 p 6

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco has said that between $50 and $80 million will be earmarked for the coca plantation replacement program during the 1990-1991 term.

The fund includes $30.7 million provided by the so-called Bennett plan to implement alternative development programs that will support coca plantation replacement. The rest of the resources were granted by the United States during the previous administration.

Capobianco believes that the resources that have not yet been used because "the previous administration was unable to formulate alternative development projects for coca crops" can still be used. "There are important surpluses left by the former administration that can be used for coca plantation replacement next year," Capobianco said.

Capobianco said that the coca plantation replacement program is being organized and that it will be implemented as soon as the National Council Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking [CONALID] is reorganized.

The coca plantation replacement program is not being implemented for the time being, and the goal of replacing 5,000 hectares of coca crops could not be achieved. That goal had been established in the Law of Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances, which was promulgated on 5 January 1989.

According to government officials, only 1,300 hectares of coca crops had been replaced by 31 July 1989, and it is impossible to achieve the goal established by Law 1008.

Capobianco stated that as soon as the reorganization of CONALID ends, the government will have to evaluate the coca plantation replacement program and to establish mechanisms to meet this objective "in keeping with current situation." CONALID proposes mechanisms to coordinate the coca plantation replacement program, interdiction measures, and drug abuse prevention.

According to updated reports, coca production amounts to 150,000 tons, of which between 12,000 and 14,000 tons are used for traditional consumption and the rest for cocaine processing.

The reports say that the U.S. Government has virtually frozen the fund allocated to the coca plantation replacement program.

Government officials said that the United States did not grant the $5.8 million it had promised to disburse last August, and they added that "the United States has still to make two disbursements of $5.8 million each."

Marilyn McAfee, the U.S. Embassy minister counselor, who has arrived in Bolivia, stated that the Bolivian Government has not achieved its goals for eradicating coca crops this year.

Government officials said that it will probably be necessary to make a new evaluation of the coca plantation replacement program and to modify possible goals. "It will be impossible this year to replace the 5,000 hectares of coca crops proposed by the government, but the government has made the decision to comply with the spirit of Law 1008." [quotation unattributed, as published]

Capobianco believes that CONALID's new mechanisms will allow a better implementation of Law 1008.

"There are problems with the coca plantation replacement and alternative development program, with interdiction, and with drug abuse prevention, and the three areas should be analyzed and solved as a whole, without special emphasis on any one area," Capobianco pointed out.

COB Congress Elects New Executives

PY2909233889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0309 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Oruro, 28 Sep (EFE)—The 8th Congress of the Bolivian Workers Confederation (COB) has been deliberating for the past 11 days. Today they elected miner worker Victor Lopez Arias as new executive secretary of this workers' organization.

Lopez, an independent and member of the Latin American Workers Federation (CLAT), was elected, winning 32 votes more than mine worker Oscar Salas, a member of the Bolivian Communist Party, who was proposed by the United Left (IU).

Victor Lopez Arias replaces communist leader Simon Reyes Rivera, who did not seek reelection at the 8th COB Congress.

Daniel Santalla, a member of the IU, was elected COB secretary general replacing Heriberto Mamani, a member of the progovernment Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).

The election of the main members of the COB Executive Committee continued today at the Congress headquarters, where more than 1,500 union delegates have for the past 11 days been debating the country's political, economic, and social situation. [passage omitted]

Brazil

U.S. Advisers in Colombia Cause Concern

PY3009031889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 28 Sep (EFE)—It was reported in this city today that Brazilian military high commanders are concerned that U.S. advisers may be in the Colombian jungle participating in the offensive against drug trafficking in that neighboring country.

Military sources cited by the publication RELATORIO RESERVADO have indicated that the possible presence of drug traffickers in the Amazonas and U.S. public concern over environmental preservation might bring the U.S. observers uncomfortably close to the Brazilian territory.

The same sources noted that the Army minister, the aeronautics minister, and the National Intelligence Service (SNI) are inclined to undertake preventive actions to prevent the increasing presence of U.S. military personnel from expanding into Brazilian territory.

RELATORIO RESERVADO revealed that the Brazilian Army and Aeronautics Ministries are already trying to reinforce the military units on the country's northern border so that the United States will not in the future extend its presence in the region under the pretext of protecting the jungle.

Therefore, the Brazilian military supports the idea of sending Brazilian troops to fight drug trafficking in the territory of the neighboring country should Colombia request and need such help, and so "keep the U.S. presence out of that region."

Finance Minister Rules Out New Economic Package

PY3009010889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said that the country is going through a difficult moment and that, consequently, this is not the right time to increase profits or to make irresponsible decisions based on rumors. The minister ruled out the possibility of a new economic package.

[Begin da Nobrega recording] We intend to call on businessmen to behave responsibly and to understand the difficult time we are going through. This is not the right time to increase profits, or to make irresponsible decisions based on rumors that have in the past few days been disseminated. We do not know the objectives of these rumors, but they probably have financial or electoral objectives. We intend to show businessmen that, despite the serious institutional and political difficulties, the government is doing its best. [end recording]

Minister Mailson da Nobrega made these remarks upon leaving the Alvorada Palace, where he met with President Jose Sarney, with the planning and justice ministers, with the chief of the civilian household, and with the chief of the SNI [National Intelligence Service].

Soviet Nuclear Experts To Arrive in November

PY3009004689 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 27 Sep 89 p 61

[From the "Radar" page]

[Text] If there is one thing upon which the Soviets and the North Americans fully agree it is the need to restrict nuclear proliferation among countries that do not have this technology yet. However, despite this tendency, A.N Protsenko, Chairman of the State Committee of Utilization of Atomic Energy, will arrive in November within the framework of the series of high-level visits through which the USSR has been courting Brazil, a policy which has the personal support of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Protsenko-led delegation will participate in a seminar organized by the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Association. The seminar will serve to discuss the possible exchange of information and technical cooperation in the nuclear field between Brazil and the Soviet Union.

SNI Predicts 'New Coup Attempt' in Suriname

PY2909224089 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 27 Sep 89 p 1

[From the "Radar" page]

[Text] The station that the National Service for Intelligence, SNI, opened in Paramaribo late last year has sent a report to SNI chief Ivan de Souza Mendes predicting a new coup attempt by Armed Forces Commander Colonel Desi Bouterse, who was a dictator in Suriname for 6 years.

Bouterse is unhappy with the agreement reached between the government of President Shankar, who was elected last year, and the guerrilla group headed by Seargent Ronnie Brunswijk. Bouterse's former bodyguard. According to the agreement the guerrilla group was not forced to lay down their arms, therefore they continue to control large regions in northern Suriname. Desi Bouterse considers this situation inadmissible.

Trade Promotion Accord Signed With ROK

PY2909023489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Sep 89

[Text] Brazil and the ROK have signed an accord for promoting trade. The accord was signed by Kwon Taeung ROK ambassador to Brazil, and by Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima, Brazilian acting foreign minister.

Brazil and the ROK have maintained diplomatic relations for 3 decades. In the past 5 years, bilateral trade rose from $270 million to $470 million.

From now on, a mixed committee will seek ways to promote commercial ties.

Flecha de Lima commented on Brazilian-ROK relations:

[Begin Flecha de Lima recording] From the viewpoint of Brazilian commercial relations with Asia, a region that is increasingly important to our country, the ROK is one of our most important partners. We have been able to take harmonious action because have common opinions and common interests, and because we both hold multilateral (?policies). It is well known that we have worked for the liberalization of world trade. We have always paid particular attention to the positions adopted by the Seoul government at the United Nations. [end recording]

Flecha de Lima said that the Brazilian-ROK accord will promote cooperation in the technical, scientific, technological, and cultural areas.

Inflation Hits New Record in September

PY2909232789 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Inflation hit an all-time record high in September. The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics [IBEGE] today reported that the September inflation rate is 35.95 percent. According to the IBGE all prices factored into the inflation index increased compared to last month when the inflation rate was 29.34 percent.

The highest increase was experienced by nonfoodstuffs which went up 38.89 percent as compared to the 32.28 percent they went up in August. [passage omitted]

Deputy on Internal Debt, Hyperinflation

PY2909142889 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Sep 89 Economic Section p 1

[By Joao Borges]

[Text] The climate of concern that dominated the financial market this week had been anticipated by the government. Last Friday morning, under the pretext of discussing the 152-percent increase granted by the Superior Labor Court (TST) to Bank of Brazil employees, President Jose Sarney held a meeting at Granja do Torto with Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu, acting Finance Minister Paulo Cesar Ximenes, National Intelligence Service (SNI) chief General Ivan de Souza Mendes, and the government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Luiz Roberto Ponte. The Bank of Brazil problem was discussed in the context of worsening the potential hyperinflation crisis.

Immediately after the meeting, Luiz Roberto Ponte phoned Deputy Cesar Maia (Democratic Labor Party for Rio de Janeiro State) and said that "the government is determined to do anything to fend off hyperinflation. Yesterday, we listened with great interest to your suggestions and those of Deputy Jose Serra regarding the internal debt issue."

The Chamber of Deputies government leader made the phone call from Granja do Torto. He referred to Thursday's debate on TV Gazeta during which Deputies Maia and Serra had agreed that a fundamental step in fending off the threat of hyperinflation would be an agreement with the financial market to restructure the internal debt. That agreement would put to rest the idea of a government's default on the internal debt and reduce the risk of diverting money now invested in the overnight market—where the government rolls over its own internal debt papers—into consumption and other investments such as gold, dollars, and real estate. The resulting increased demand for real goods could touch off hyperinflation at any time.

Cesar Maia argued that politicians are involved, heart and soul, in the presidential campaign—as in his case—and are not in a position to propose that kind of economic measure to Congress.

This is a delicate subject that will have repercussions in the next governemnt. Maia encouraged the idea that a way should be found to uncock the trigger of the internal debt, which today stands at about 160 billion new cruzados and is financed in the overnight market on a daily basis. He believes that Congress will approve measures originating from an understanding reached outside the governemnt.

"Those gentlemen have to put their heads stright and realize that hyperinflation is a fire that burns both guest and host just the same," Deputy Cesar Maia affirmed yesterday during a debate on economic prospects for the

1990's. He discussed the need for the financial market to formulate its own proposal to refinance the internal debt.

In Maia's opinion, the spontaneous sacrifice of accepting longer-maturity securities is preferable to the risk of hyperinflation, which would turn the money now invested into smoke overnight. Maia explained a possible scenario for reaching an understanding on the issue:

Ten responsible market leaders will be taken to a ranch on a Friday night where they will stay completely isolated from the outside world until Sunday afternoon. At that time the market leaders will draw their conclusions for refinancing the public debt and fly to Brasilia to discuss the drafting of a provisional measure with the finance minister and the president. The measure will be sent to Congress on Monday, which is a bank holiday, ordering the compulsory refinancing of part of the public debt to be converted into debt with a long-term maturity.

Biopsy on Sarney Reveals Benign Dermatitis

PY3009010489 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Planalto Palace today received the results of the biopsy of a small wart removed from the right nasal cavity of President Jose Sarney. The biopsy was made on 27 September by a Memorial Hospital dermatologist in New York where Sarney opened the 44th United Nations General Assembly.

The report says that the president has a benign nasal cellular injury, that is, the result of the biopsy is that the president suffers from chronic benign dermatitis.

Colonel (Mesias de Araujo), the chief of the Planalto Palace medical department, said that President Sarney is satisfied with the results of the test.

Chile

Errazuriz Meets With Japanese Foreign Minister

PY3009142689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Report from New York by Julio Lopez Blanco]

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz today departed the United Nations for Washington, where he will sign the Cartagena de Indias treaty to amend the OAS code. Early in the morning before his departure for Washington, Errazuriz held a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who praised the current Chilean economic situation.

Bomb Damages Labor Leader's House

PY2909210889 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Excerpts] A bomb exploded at Manuel Contreras Loyola's house at 2205 last night, causing over 2 million pesos worth of damage. Contreras Loyola is the president of the National Front of Autonomous Organizations [FRENAO]. [passage omitted]

According to police sources, unidentified individuals placed a powerful bomb containing 300 grams of amonium gelignite by the boundary wall around the house, which is located at 7595 Las Arpas Street, in Perpetua Freire neighborhood. The explosion shattered all the windows of nearby houses. Nobody has claimed responsibility for this attack.

Carabineros Thwart Bomb Attempt in Atacama

PY3009175389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Atacama region Carabineros experts have defused a powerful bomb made up of 8 kg of explosives that had been placed at pylon 402 of the Maintecillo-Diego de Almagro system.

The charge had been activated, but an anonymous phone call made by true Chileans defending the well-being of all citizens enabled the Carabineros to defuse the explosive. Carabineros seized three charges of ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agents in separate 2.5 kg bags; 11 meters of safety fuse that had been lit but was fortunately put out before the explosive went off; 10 meters of primer; 8 detonators; and 4 30-cm rubber bands to attach the explosive to the base of the 220,000-watt pylon.

Carabinero Major Ivan Rojas Cruz told Radio Nacional that the terrorists had 90 minutes to flee after igniting the primer. He noted that the explosion could have also damaged two other nearby pylons.

ENDESA [National Electric Power, Inc.] workers explained that it would have taken at least 8 hours to repair an emergency power line. This means Chanaral, Taltal, Diego de Almagro, and El Salvador would have been without electricity for 8 hours.

Carabinero Killed in Attack in Santiago

PY3009124689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0248 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Santiago, 29 Sep (EFE)—According to police sources, unidentified individuals attacked a Carabineros van in southern Santiago tonight, killing one Carabinero and wounding another.

The sources said that the attack took place in the Santa Rosa Avenue area, which is surrounded by many lower-class neighborhoods. In the past, the area has frequently been the site of demonstrations against General Augusto Pinochet's military government. Radio stations identified the dead Carabinero as Hector Pincheira and the man wounded as Pedro Aguayo.

Area neighbors told EFE that the attack, like others in the past, took place in the same area where demonstrators earlier today burned tires to block traffic. Witnesses said the attack was conducted from a moving car.

Police sources said the police and other security forces immediately began a dragnet to capture the individuals responsible.

Government Reaches 'Stand-by' Agreement With IMF

PY2909234589 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Sep 89 pp A1, A14

[Excerpts] Chile has reached a stand-by agreement with the IMF, by which the country will receive 64 million special drawing rights, being the equivalent of $100 million.

Alfonso Serrano, vice president of the Central Bank, has said that this fund can be used as part of an operation to continue to reduce the foreign debt within the framework of the Brady Plan.

He said: "This possibility is currently under study following the talks held with the IMF and the World Bank." [passage omitted]

Serrano also specified that the agreement reached with the IMF establishes goals for monetary, fiscal and international reserves policy. In contrast with previous years, and as a result of the satisfactory development of the Chilean economy, however, the agreement does not impose limitations on the use of certain tools of the economic policy as a condition for disbursement. The agreement only established guidelines.

The agreement reached with the IMF is consistent with the goal to have, in 1990, a growth of 4 to 5 percent, an inflation rate from 10 to 15 percent, and a stable balance of payments assuming that the price of copper returns to a level it had maintained for a long time.

The price of copper used in the program with the IMF and the World Bank was $0.75 per pound for 1988, $1.24 for 1989, and $0.87 for 1990, which is equivalent to $0.79 in 1988 dollars. This represents a gradual return to a long-term trend.

PCCh Pledges To Defend Aylwin's Government

PY2909034689 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Sep 89 p C-3

[Text] The Communist Party [PCCh] said yesterday that even though it has differences with the coalition accord and with the coalition candidate, the party will wholeheartedly work for the victory of the coalition and will defend the government of Patricio Aylwin, even though the PCCh will maintain an independent position.

PCCh leader Jose Sanfuentes has said that the PCCh lawmakers will support "the democratization task" of the transition government and will sponsor the resolution of human rights problems.

Sanfuentes and PCCh leaders Mireya Baltra and Manuel Riesco yesterday hosted a press conference to protest the arrest of PCCh candidate Claudina Nunez, who was arrested at the airport on 14 September as she was arriving from Italy, where she underwent medical treatment. The warrant for her arrest was issued in connection with a lawsuit filed against her in the wake of a land seizure in La Pintana, where a young female resident died.

The Marxist leaders said that the PCCh candidates will run for seats in the Chamber of Deputies in 13 districts and 13 regions. They added: "We Communists have always been fully engaged in the political struggle." Sanfuentes stressed: "We will wholehertedly support a broad opposition victory in the elections and the mobilization of the people to ensure respect for the victory."

He emphasized that the PCCh lawmakers will support the democratization efforts of the next government and will demand solutions to the country's human rights and economic problems.

"We have always admitted that we have differences with the opposition coalition and with the coalition's candidate, but we will wholeheartedly support this candidacy. We will defend the government, and we will consolidate democracy," Mireya Baltra said, adding that "the Communists and the left will maintain their independent position."

The PCCh leaders said that they agree with Patricio Aylwin's remarks in connection with the elimination of the 11 September celebration.

"We fully agree with him because it is a date that the country will recall as the date of a tragedy," Sanfuentes said.

* Results of Vote on Constitution Analyzed

33480272 Santiago CAUCE in Spanish 7 Aug 89 pp 14-16

[Article by Jose Joaquin Brunner: "The Plebiscite and Its Implications"]

[Text] Results of the recent plebiscite on reforms of the 1980 Constitution previously agreed upon by the Concertation of Parties for Democracy, the National Renewal Party, and the Military Government show that the people are committed to a gradual, peaceful, well-thought-out path of transition to democracy.

Civic Participation

Not enough emphasis has been given to the very high degree of participation in the plebiscite of 31 July 1989. In fact, the rate of abstention was 6.5 percent of registered voters, clearly below the usual figures for this type of regional or international event. Some 85 percent of all voters came out in favor of the reforms, while those against totaled a scant 8.2 percent. Nullified votes amounted to 315,000 and blank votes 114,000. The total number of ballots cast was nearly 7.1 million.

Those anticipating large numbers of abstentions due to the relatively technical nature of the issues at stake and fairly poor quality of propaganda preceding the voting were therefore surprised at the high degree of participation, both in Santiago and the country as a whole.

One may therefore conclude that the political habits of the Chilean people adhered to the traditional pattern of civic responsibility and have not been altered by the long interruption caused by the existence of the Military Government.

Partial Democratization

As noted in previous commentaries, the approved reforms introduce a partial democratization of political institutions designed by the authoritarian regime.

The government had originally thought that Pinochet might be able to remain in power for another 8 years beginning in 1990. Transitional articles to that effect were added to the constitution and would remain in force until 1989, while permanent articles would take effect in 1990. The latter established an autocratic political system with a presidential dictatorship, based on the idea that democracy had to be "guarded" and "protected" from the expression of popular sovereignty.

The institutional framework originally contained in the 1980 Constitution was now modified under pressure brought to bear by the opposition following its victory in October, when an overwhelming majority of the country voted "No" in order to bar the way to any extension of Pinochet's term in power.

With the support of the National Renewal Party, the opposition forced Pinochet's government to sit down at the bargaining table and agreement was finally reached on 54 reforms of the text of the constitution in both form and substance.

Main Changes

Among the changes approved on Sunday, 31 August, changes that will partially democratize the political system scheduled to take effect in March 1990, are a number of reforms of particular importance. One will make it possible in the future to introduce, with greater flexibility but based on rather conservative standards, further modifications in the constitutional text. However, the fact that special high quorums were required to reform the constitution should not be particularly surprising inasmuch as they comprise a mechanism designed to safeguard the process of transition, forcing all principal political protagonists to seek a consensus in order to be able to move forward. At the same time, the reformed constitution ends with old Article 8, the so-called article of "ideological exclusion," a matter now regulated on a more realistic basis and that will in the future prevent the persecution of ideas and the exclusion of parties from the political system for ideological reasons. At the same time, the number of senators in the Upper Chamber is increased, thereby diminishing the weight of appointed senators, who will also have a short constitutional life. At the same time, the first "post-authoritarian" government will last only 4 years, a measure promoted for months by the opposition and now sanctioned by the constitution. The president loses the power to dissolve the Chamber of Deputies, which power destroyed the proper balance between the different branches of government. Certain powers will also be taken away from the president under states of emergency, particularly the power to inflict the penalty of exile on Chileans. Finally, human rights guarantees under the constitution are strengthened with the incorporation into the text of international treaties signed by Chile on the subject.

Victory for the Country and the Transition

The widespread approval of the reforms is, first and foremost, a victory for the country. Indeed, it makes it possible to continue the process of transition within a framework of basic standards relatively shared, although there do remain certain constitutional issues that the opposition would like to modify. The 1980 Constitution partially loses its divisionist nature by virtue of the voting. Its de facto illegitimacy so often proclaimed by the opposition thus begins to dissolve and in the future, it will be easier to debate new modifications of the constitution without any need to dwell on its complete illegitimacy or dismantle it.

Symbolically speaking, the reformed constitution is no longer exclusively Pinochet's constitution, although it does maintain central traits that are the mark and legacy of the authoritarian regime. It is normal and to be expected that the opposition would in the future endeavor to change such traits, particularly those which would, should they subsist, hinder the democratic interplay by virtue of their authoritarian impact. However, it is possible that the argument that it would be necessary to "dismantle" or radically change the constitution would no longer carry the same weight, inasmuch as it has been "reborn" as a legitimate product of the transition, of negotiations and pacts between the main protagonists involved in that process.

Opposition Victory

As far as public opinion is concerned, the results of the 31 July plebiscite clearly favor the opposition. As the results of the poll conducted by CERC [Center for Contemporary Reality Studies] in the 34 communes of the Metropolitan Region during the first 2 weeks of July show, 76 percent of the population stated that if the "Yes" vote had won in the October plebiscite, there would not be any reforms in the constitution now. Some 60 percent thought that the reforms were due to opposition pressure on the government, while 28 percent maintained that they were possible as a result of the government's good will. The opposition's message that more constitutional reforms are needed was shared by 70 percent of all voters, while only 17 percent thought the opposite. A total of 74 percent of the people living in the

capital share the opposition's idea that in the future, mayors should be elected, while only 20 percent believe they should be appointed.

In sum, the constitutional reforms are for the most part attributed to the opposition's initiative and are perceived by voters to fall within the framework of perceptions and opinions which the Concertacion of Parties for Democracy has disseminated.

The foregoing shows that the latter group maintains its capacity to shape and guide public debate and that its positions are widely shared by the citizenry. It could be maintained that between 60 and 70 percent of all residents of the capital are favorably inclined toward the Concertacion and feel represented by the group, without this bias being immediately expressed in a future vote for the Concertacion in a presidential or parliamentary election, for example. However, it nevertheless seems reasonable to say that the Concertacion's potential sphere of influence reaches that percentage.

PC Once Again Mistaken

In this context, it is clear that the PC [Communist Party] was once again mistaken in calling upon members to void their votes or reject the reforms. The PC surely imagined that the number of abstentions would be far higher and that the confusion generated by the bad propaganda and apparently technical nature of the decision to be made on the plebiscite would enable it to "fish in troubled waters." However, the results of the plebiscite show that the PC's appeal had little response and that in the long run, it was shared only by the "pseudosocialism" prohibited by the government, the Southern Party, and the most recalcitrant elements of the National Vanguard and orthodox Pinochet supporters. The PC thus offers a pitiful spectacle, cornered in clearly minority positions that can only rouse support from the most inorganic and "hard-line" forces of the authoritarian regime.

Public Opinion: Shifts

The previously mentioned CERC survey enables one to measure additional shifts in public opinion that should be considered by the Concertacion of Parties for Democracy, which grouping has the best chance of winning in December and, consequently, of leading the nation's government starting in March 1990.

Results of that poll do in fact show that expectations of a future government led by the opposition are growing, although not in exaggerated proportions. A majority still believes that the country's difficulties and the personal problems of every family cannot be solved rapidly, but only in medium- or long-range terms. The Concertacion should therefore emphasize its "pedagogical" message, reiterating that the country's problems can only be solved gradually and by virtue of the efforts and contributions of every citizen.

At the same time, a clear majority of those polled in the Metropolitan Region offered a negative evaluation of their economic situation and, in general, of policies promoted by the government, viewed as policies that help only a minority. This will probably remove any possibility Buchi may have had of surpassing the number of votes won by Pinochet in October.

In contrast, Patricio Aylwin's candidacy is on a roll if one goes solely by the polls. In all of them, Aylwin consistently and easily beats any rightist candidate. In the CERC poll, Aylwin increased his electoral support between April and July, while Buchi's candidacy remained stagnant at about 35 percent.

The image of the opposition candidate is slightly better than that of the Concertacion, but both continue to be positive, confirming the need to work together behind the visible, effective leadership of the candidate. At the same time, Aylwin is seen as occupying nearly the center of the ideological spectrum, while Buchi and Jarpa are identified with strongly rightist positions.

Turning to the parties, voting intentions as stated in July show a wide margin of preference for Christian Democrats: nearly 40 percent. Next come the PPD [Party for Democracy] and the National Renewal with 9.9 and 9.3 percent respectively. Since both are new parties, their irruption in public opinion seems significant, especially when compared with that of the UDI [Independent Democratic Union], which won only 3 percent, and PAIS [Broad Party of the Socialist Left], which up to now has had a scant 4 percent. In addition, PARENA [National Renewal Party] could grow by absorbing a large share of the 3.7 percent of voters in the Metropolitan Region who say they identify with the National Party, while the PPD would have to absorb the 1 percent who in the poll preferred to identify themselves as the PS [Socialist Party] (Nunez).

Whatever the case, depending on parliamentary campaigns in the months ahead, it would be possible to anticipate a high degree of voting consolidation in the PPD and, as the internal conflict in the right evolves, an affirmation or weakening of PARENA, now being "stalked" as part of the "Buchi trap" laid by hard-line sectors of the government, the UDI, and a group of influential businessmen.

Colombia

Barco's U.S. Visit Attracts Favorable Approval

Londono Discusses Trip

PA3009130989 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] New York—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes has described President Virgilio Barco Vargas' visit to the United States as positive.

Londono told our station that he feels proud because no other head of state had been applauded as much after delivering a speech at the United Nations. He added that the meeting with President George Bush was very cordial and constructive, because the Colombian head of state was able to convey his thoughts on the required aid, especially economic aid.

The foreign minister assured that results in the economic sphere were also positive, because the government met with officials of the Department of Commerce and other U.S. Government branches.

As for offers to send troops to Colombia to help fight organized crime , an offer made by several countries, Londono said that under no circumstances will a foreign presence be accepted on Colombian territory.

Official Comments on Results

PA0110032989 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0115 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Reports by Edith Lopez and Jorge Alfredo Vargas]

[Text] President Virgilio Barco arrived at Cartagena's Rafael Nunez Airport at approximately 1400. He arrived on board a FAC [Colombian Air Force] plane and under extremely strict security measures. The Cartagena press was not allowed on the ramp, even though the entire country is waiting to learn the results of Barco's talks with President George Bush. President Barco boarded a FAC helicopter that flew him to the guest house, where he will rest for the remainder of the weekend.

After dropping President Barco off in Cartagena, the committee that accompanied him to the United States arrived in Bogota at approximately 1530. Upon arrival, Finance Minister Luis Fernando Alarcon Mantilla very optimistically stressed the negotiations undertaken by President Barco during his trip and added that the environment is good to guarantee the United States' financial support for Colombia, to renew the World Coffee Pact, and to improve the conditions for Colombian trade in that country. Alarcon Mantilla also confirmed that the Challenger loan will be disbursed within the next 20 days.

[Begin Alarcon recording] The environment is favorable for the continuous economic efforts that must be made. [end recording]

Meanwhile, upon arrival in Colombia, President Barco issued a communique in which he described his efforts in the United States as satisfactory and very positive. The communique also mentions President Barco's irrevocable decision to continue fighting drug trafficking, a decision that was very well received at the UN General Assembly by the 158 countries represented there. Barco emphasized in his UN speech that the battle cannot be fought by Colombia alone.

Londono Describes UN Support

PA2909171789 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0215 GMT 29 Sep 89

[From "The Personality of The Week" program: Interview with Foreign Minister Julio Londono by Yamid Amat at the residence of the Colombian ambassador to the United States in Washington on 28 September—live or recorded]

[Text] [Amat] Mr Foreign Minister, what can you tell us about the overall UN attitude on the current Colombian problem—drug consumption, [words indistinct]?

[Londono] I believe we must stress that since its creation in 1945, the United Nations has never listened to such a profound and reiterated solidarity as the one expressed by each and every UN member country regarding Colombia and the Colombian people. Countries of all tendencies and political orientations have supported Colombia. They have understood Colombia for what it really is. Those countries have understood that Colombia is inhabited by great people and that it has many resources.

I believe that some countries' media, which until recently used to attack our country and promote a campaign against Colombians traveling abroad, are understanding that despite our problems and difficulties, Colombia has an enormous resource—its people, their intelligence, their situation, and their soul. That is what we have witnessed at the United Nations.I repeat, I do not think that the United Nations ever witnessed such an expression of support as the one expressed for Colombia during the current UN General Assembly.

[Amat] Mr Foreign Minister, we have seen that the EC, the European Parliament, Francois Miterrand, Mrs Thatcher, and Mr Kohl from the FRG are talking about supporting Colombia in light of the current situation. Can you tell us how can that be done?

[Londono] On this and other occasions, we have said that true support for Colombia basically begins by paying fair prices for the agricultural and mining products of the Colombian people. It is impossible to face difficulties or conflicts without adopting these actions, which are only fair to carry out when dealing with a developing country. I believe it must be clearly understood that we are not asking for gifts or donations. We are initially and basically asking fair prices for our people's efforts, work, and products.

Obviously, it must be understood that the weight of Colombia's struggle cannot only be placed upon Colombia's shoulders, but also upon the entire international community. In this case, we cannot act like an ostrich. All countries must simultaneously work toward the same goal within their own jurisdiction and field.

[Amat] Mr Foreign Minister, Colombia is carrying out two kinds of parallel actions in the United States right now. Colombia is conducting political and economic

actions. What is the mission of the political actions and what are the goals of the economic actions?

[Londono] Right now, the Colombian Government economic team, which includes the Colombian finance minister, the general manager of the Bank of the Republic, the general director of the Planning Institute, and the INCOMEX [Colombian Foreign Trade Institute] general director, is meeting with U.S. authorities to discuss certain issues. They are discussing financial issues, bilateral trade, and the international coffee pact. In other words, they are conducting an overall examination of the bilateral relations between Colombia and the United States.

As for the political actions, President Barco met with the leaders of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. I believe it has been a long time since the last Latin American president held a meeting like that. In addition, President Barco will also hold a long meeting with U.S. President George Bush. They will essentially discuss issues in which both countries are interested. There is no set agenda for the meeting. I believe President Barco will reiterate Colombia's views on various subjects. Some time ago, President Barco sent a letter to President Bush discussing the Colombian people's concerns about the failure of the international coffee pact and about bilateral trade.

I think this meeting will be a good opportunity for the two presidents to discuss hemispheric issues and to exchange views on certain specific world problems. We should not forget that presently Colombia is a member of the UN Security Council, which is developing a number of highly important world initiatives.

[Amat] Mr Foreign Minister, before the current Colombian crisis began, it was viewed that our country was victimizing the United States. Now, however, there is a clearer awareness that Colombia is a victim of the dreadful drug consumption in the United States.

[Londono] It is an evident reality that drug consumption in the United States has not been fought efficiently. That fight is the basic responsibility of the United States. We have explained and reiterated that in all forums. Obviously, at first or some time ago, it seemed very easy to hold Colombia absolutely responsible for the drug problem. I reiterate that the struggle against the drug problem should be by the joint efforts and responsibility of the entire international community.

[Amat] You have been participating in UN activities today. Can you tell us if the UN Security Council is adopting any initiatives concerning Colombia? Can you mention some of those initiatives, please?

[Londono] As you know, it is the duty of the UN Security Council to authorize, agree with, or order the use of UN troops in certain, specific cases.

[Amat] Does that mean that there is a possibility that UN Blue Helmets may come to Colombia?

[Londono] We have stated that...

[Amat interrupts] [Words indistinct]

[Londono] Exactly. We have said that Colombia will never accept the interference of any foreign forces under any circumstances or for any purpose. Colombia has its own resources and we cannot accept such an action by any means.

[Amat] Colombian opposition groups have said: President Barco has [word indistinct] a war from which no one knows how to escape. The opposition claims that no one sees the light at the end of the tunnel. Mr Foreign Minister? What do you think about the opposition's criticism and attitude?

[Londono] I do not judge the opposition's views. I believe the opposition has to do what it thinks it should. It has every right to do whatever it wants. That attitude is logical and normal. Fortunately, dissenting voices can still be heard in our country. The truth is that President Barco's action is not being carried out only by the country's president. I believe President Barco's struggle, work, and actions involve the entire country. Obviously, his actions have to be commented on and disagreed with. That is normal and logical. I believe that shows that in Colombia we still have that invaluable sign of a true democracy—dissenting voices within the ruling party are still heard. I believe that is correct. I believe that criticism is important within the current reality we are experiencing.

Among the first things that need to be done in some countries that face various problems—for example in some Central American countries—is to find a political opposition. I believe any state can move forward once there is a strong and adequate political opposition and political parties. That is what we hope for and trust.

[Amat] Concerning the Colombian opposition's attitude, one may think that there is more foreign than local support for our country's actions?

[Londono] I would like to tell you that I do believe President Barco has a large local support. The large majority of the Colombian people share the president's views, struggles, dreams, and goals. We must recall that, until recently, Colombia was somewhat isolated, and that over the past few years it has acquired an enormous international projection. Our country is a leading force in almost all international organizations. It expresses its points of view and they are taken into account. Because of this, action such as what President Barco is carrying out is more known now than before. The international community now knows that there is more to the Colombian people than the impression that some want to give of them.

Senator Comments on New U.S. Policy on Exports

PA3009144489 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1255 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Interview with Senator Miguel Santamaria Davila, president of the Horticulture-Fruit Growers Association, by unidentified reporter on 30 September,place not given—live]

[Text] We have learned about President Bush's decision to have a significant opening of the U.S. market for Colombian tropical fruit exports. We have established contact with Senator Miguel Santamaria Davila, president of the Colombian Horticulture-Fruit Growers Association.

[Reporter] Good morning Dr Santamaria. What specific benefits do you think this announcement by President Bush regarding Colombian fruit exports can bring to the national economy?

[Santamaria] Good morning. Thank you for reporting this news to us; we did not know about it until now. I think that if the U.S. Government is going to open its market to fruit exports, and if it is willing to ease the process to import fruit, and to eliminate some problems and difficulties we have had in the past, that is good news for Colombian fruit growers. Bananas are the most important item; exports have faced some problems. On some ocassions, governments tried to impose sanctions on Colombia through health, and restrictive measures which created problems for exporters. Such measures especially affect banana growers, who are facing the most difficult conditions. The public order situation and the threats banana growers are facing are extremely serious. Therefore, this is very important.

Regarding other tropical fruits, this is undoubtedly a good opportunity because, despite all difficulties in the financial, marketing, and transportation spheres—and despite the health measures—we are beginning to create the awareness to produce fruits of good quality. Our fruits are beginning to reach international markets with great success. However, many restrictive measures still remain in effect. Many times, the measures seem to be of a political nature. For example, some vegetables and fruits are exported to New York. They cannot be exported to Miami because there are restrictions limiting the possibility of exporting these products to the southern U.S. region. This measure is perhaps to defend producers of semi-tropical products in the South. This could be a economic defense measure.

Therefore, if there is an opening in the market, which actually consists in recognizing the effort being made by some countries like Colombia to produce and export fruit and horticultural products, this would be a great opportunity for Colombia's future. This means that the United States has finally begun to understand that this kind of cooperation will truly help create positive economic trade.

[Reporter] Dr Santamaria, what is the estimate on foreign exchange Colombia receives from horticultural products and fruit exports? Has President Barco's visit helped to promote these Colombian exports?

[Santamaria] Undoubtedly President Barco's visit has been fundamental in this process. He has been the Colombian people's spokesman. He has requested the United States to have a greater understanding, to open up some doors which were closed, and to eliminate some difficulties we have been facing recently. For example, regarding coffee exports, I think there has been a significant and positive progress. The great audience President Barco has now in the United States, and the convergence existing between the United States and the Colombian Government—amid difficult and complex circumstances for Colombians—is a basic component in the process to improve trade, and in Colombian efforts to find markets for important Colombian export products.

Barco Confirms Resignation of Minister Marulanda

PA0210024589 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0008 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Fresident Virgilio Barco returned a few minutes ago to the capital of Colombia after spending almost 30 hours in Cartagena, after arriving on 30 September from the United States, where he carried out a successful tour.

During a news conference the president appeared to be in good spirits. He was very pleased with his trip, and he confirmed the resignation of Development Minister Carlos Arturo Marulanda.

Upon his arrival in Bogota, President Barco confirmed the possibility of a ministerial crisis next week. He said that Development Minister Carlos Arturo Marulanda will resign after the Senate debate and return to his congressional post.

[Barco] "If ministers resign, they certainly must be replaced. In a newspaper I read today in Cartagena, I saw that the development minister had resigned. He told me last week that after the debate he would resign and return to Congress, where he would continue stating and defending his points of view."

The president also expressed satisfaction over the support unanimously proclaimed by the 158 countries represented at the United Nations, and he said that the support of good Colombians is vital to his institutions.

[Barco] "What Colombia needs is the help of Colombians. The Colombian people must form a common front to defend Colombia's institutions. Despite the few Colombians who do not believe in democracy, the world has faith in Colombia. It wants to help and support the country and believes that Colombian democracy must be defended at all costs."

President Barco also reiterated his optimism over the restoration of the International Coffee Organization [OIC].

[Barco] "Abroad I found that there is an understanding of the problem, that other countries understand our position. They believe we are right and that something should be developed among all the OIC-member countries. I believe that we can hope for a successful arrangement, which is very important for Colombia."

President Barco, meanwhile, denied reports that he had serious differences with his former justice minister, Monica de Greiff.

[Barco] "She is a very respectable, intelligent, and capable official. It is not true that she disagreed with me. On the contrary, I received a very pleasant letter from her in which she thanked me for allowing her to help Colombia."

In conclusion, the president confirmed that on 5 October he will meet with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

Trade Council Eliminates Protectionist Barriers

PA2909172689 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Sep 89 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Summary] Foreign Trade authorities have modified most of the country's exiting safeguard [salvaguardia] clauses. Therefore, 95 percent of the protectionist barriers have been eliminated. These barriers made Andean integration difficult. The only protectionist barriers still in effect are for the importation of timber and some agricultural products. This decision was made during the most recent meeting of the Colombian Foreign Trade Council. The measure seeks to comply with agreements signed in May in Cartagena by the Presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, and by the Bolivian Foreign Minister. The remaining Andean Pact country members are currently in the process of eliminating protectionist barriers. Colombia expects Andean Pact country members will expedite the process of eliminating protectionist barriers.

Continuing Coverage of Country's Antidrug Effort

Acting Minister Announces Measures

PA2909135589 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—The national government announced that over the next few days it will issue an extraordinary state of siege decree whereby the Public Order Higher Court will be staffed to expedite 2,600 cases being heard at specialized courts. Acting Justice Minister Carlos Lemos made that announcement after meeting with Acting President Orlando Vasquez and the Higher Court officials to analyze the problems that affect the legal branch. Afterward, Lemos noted that the government also decided to provide specialized technical assistance to the higher court, supply it with computers and office equipment, and reinforce security.

As for the fate of several seized aircraft, Lemos said that most of them have been assigned to the Air Force, as agreed by the National Drug Council. The same procedure will be will be applied with regard to other seized goods.

Editorial on DEA Involvement

PA2909192089 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "The DEA Killed Him"]

[Text] We are now hearing the incredible. People in important positions have been naming Luis Carlos Galan's killers. These people come from different sectors and even from different political groups. Presidential hopeful Santofimio affirms it, and so does Senator Slebi. Senator Guerra and Mayor Gomez Martinez suggest it, and of course the suggestion is gleefully welcomed by spokesmen for the Communists or the extreme left. This suggestion would provoke ironic smiles, were it not part of a dangerous campaign aimed at creating animosity toward the United States.

They claim that the DEA killed him, although they do not have a shred of evidence. These are merely unsupported speculations. Perhaps they are moved by what the British called "wishful thinking," which in Spanish means "a secret aspiration." The people should not let these unfounded remarks affect them. On the contrary, there is something precise and concrete regarding this case. In letters, private conversations and reports published here and abroad, the "mafia" in no way denies the murder. In an interview published in Spain, Rodriguez Gacha, asked about the murder, replied: "We will speak about that later."

It is part of the anti-American campaign, which as has been the case with the CIA in the past, is well-orchestrated. In past times, before Gorbachev came to power, the "comrades," in their propaganda operations directed by the brains in charge of disinformation, blamed the U.S. CIA for all present and future evils.

A Russian defector once commented ironically that "if the CIA had not existed, we would have had to invent it." We are not claiming that the CIA is a bunch of angels incapable of any crime. Some of its agents have been murderers. It has mounted countless bloody operations and its morality allows it to resort to any means to achieve an end. This is what is wrong with intelligence agencies like the KGB, the French or Chinese agencies, etc.

The CIA is blamed for everything. Whenever any president was ousted, immediately his downfall was blamed on a mysterious secret plot by the CIA. Something similar is happening with the DEA in the case of Luis Carlos Galan's horrendous murder. We should not throw a smokescreen around the investigation, which seems to be proceeding on the right path and which confirms what

we all know about the masterminds of this assassination. The people should not let themselves be fooled or led by the nose in a campaign against the "Yankees." We need their help. They need ours. We are not going to wage this battle by ourselves. Any anti-Yankee reasoning must be put aside, regardless of its source. The individuals involved in a conflict with the U.S. Embassy have weapons with which to defend themselves.

They should be able to prove their innocence.

To go on a witch-hunt to prevent open and clear debates is a mistake, understandable but full of danger. Once again we say that the investigation of the crime is proceeding well. We should wait for the results. We should not blame the present situation, murder, terrorism, and pressure, on people or organizations that have nothing to do with the case. The responsibility exists. The guilty ones have publicly confessed. With incredible brazenness they confess to terrorism and murders. Why try to confuse the people?

DAS Director Presents Report

PA2909183689 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] General Miguel Maza Marquez, DAS [Administrative Department of Security] director, has presented a detailed report on narco-terrorism and the results of the investigations conducted thus far. Amparo Ponton has a report on this:.

The DAS report indicates that the narco-terrorist gang leaders in order of importance are: Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, main promoter and moneyman; Pablo Emilio Escobar, financier in the Antioquia region; and Henry De Jesus Perez, chief of the organization in the Middle Magdalena region. The DAS report mentions 55 other names which include eight people who were or are still involved with the Boyaca Cattlemen Association, with offices in the Port of Boyaca.

In the same report, the DAS indicates that the authorities have arrested 482 people linked with the narco-terrorist gang. Regarding hitman gangs, dismantled since the state of siege decree No 813 was implemented—which leaves private justice organizations with no legal base—the DAS reports: Twenty-five hitman groups have been dismantled, 11,000 people have been arrested, over 2,000 estate and buildings have been searched, and a large number of weapons have been seized.

The DAS document, which will be an annex to the Gen Maza Marquez report to the Senate First Commission, also includes a list on massacres and assassinations of prominent citizens. The report includes information on the legal status of the people responsible for these assassinations. The list of 16 prominent people assassinated is headed by former Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. The list includes the attempt to assasinate politician Alberto Villamizar. It also mentions the case of [former EL ESPECTADOR director] Guillermo Cano, former Attorney General Carlos Mauro Hoyos, and former presidential nominee Luis Carlos Galan Sarmiento.

The DAS report indicates that the most bloody massacres took place in La Mejor Esquina and in Segovia. Thirty-eight people were killed in each of these two massacres. In La Rochela, 12 judicial branch officials were assassinated. The mastermind of the La Rochela massacre, Alonso De Jesus Baquero, known as El Negro Vladimir, is under arrest. Vaquero ranks No 28 in the list of narco-terrorists.

Drug Council Returns Aircraft

PA2909151489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Report by Hernando Corral—recorded]

[Text] The National Drug Council made its first major decision related to the properties seized from drug traffickers. Approximately 100 aircraft—airplanes, light airplanes, and helicopters—were returned to their owners after the National Drug Council authorities established they did not belong to drug traffickers. The Council ordered that 180 aircraft be turned over to the Defense Ministry to be used in the government's war on the cocaine mafias. Moreover, the Defense Ministry must decide how to distribute the aircraft among its different forces. It is known that the Air Force, the Navy, the National Police, and the Army will receive some of the seized aircraft.

The Air Force has the largest resources to give technical maintenance to U.S-made Cessna or Piper light airplanes, but none of the other corps have the pilots and technicians needed to give maintenance to the large number of airplanes that have suddenly arrived. The military and police forces will decide which of the 180 aircraft made available to them can be used immediately in the war against drug traffickers.

Paper Reveals Foreign Mercenaries

PA2909171989 Paris AFP in Spanish 1536 GMT 29 Sep 89

[All names as received]

[Text] Bogota, 29 Sep (AFP)—Quoting Security Police (DAS) sources, the Bogota opposition newspaper LA PRENSA today revealed the names of 18 Israeli and British mercenaries who trained Colombian peasants in the use of weapons.

The newspaper published excerpts of a DAS confidential report that reportedly has been sent to Colombia's military command and other state security organizations.

The newspaper reported: "There is still no evidence that Australians or South Africans participated in these activities."

The report mentioned the following Israeli mercenaries: Abraham Tzedaka, Izack Shoshani Meraiot, Ya'ir Klein, Arik Asek, Alon Soshe, Gil Lahav, Amatzia Shuali, Dean N., and Terry Melnyk, who was Klein's translator.

The British mercenaries are reported as: Brian Dave Tomkins, Peter Stuart McAleese, Alexander Lennox, Dean Shelley, John Owen, Andrew Gibson, P. Glasgow, R. Paxton, and P. Atherton.

A Bogota judge has issued arrest warrants for the Israeli citizens Klein and Asek.

The report also indicated that the Colombian Government has not advised if it has requested or plans to request that the British mercenaries be extradited, as Colombia and Great Britain have an extradition treaty in force.

Ecuadoreans Catch Drug Leader

PA3009190089 Paris AFP in Spanish 1530 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 30 Sep (AFP)—Ecuadorean authorities have arrested alleged Colombian drug trafficker Evaristo Porras Ardilla, who could be extradited to the United States, according to a report published today by the Colombian newspaper EL TIEMPO. The newspaper added the arrest took place on 28 September.

The daily indicates that Ecuadorean and Colombian authorities already have begun contacts to deport Porras, who is one of the capos of the Medellin Cartel.

Porras, who was nabbed by Ecuadorean authorities acting on tips from Colombian intelligence organizations, would be sent back to his country through the Rumichaca bridge along the common border.

Ecuadorean authorities could be holding at least two more drug traffickers besides Porras, but these persons were not identified.

On 5 January 1987, Porras was arrested at a hotel on Colombia's San Andres Island, and accused of unlawfully carrying weapons. A few days later a Cartagena judge ordered his release.

He was arrested again in March of that year but regained his freedom later.

The United States is requesting Porras' extradition.

Suspect Extradited To Country

PA0210022889 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Oct 89

[Report by Miriam Ortiz]

[Text] Evaristo Porras, the suspected drug trafficker who has been living in a plush apartment in Quito since 1987 and who was arrested on Wednesday by Interpol, was extradited today to Colombia. According to official sources, this morning Porras crossed the Ecuadoran-Colombian border amid strict security measures. He is now being taken to Pasto. According to statements made by Ecuadoran Government and Justice Minister Andres Vallejo, Porras was extradited despite threats of reprisals from drug traffickers, because this is an all-out war. The alleged Colombian drug trafficker was arrested in a plush apartment in the so-called Panoramic Towers north of Quito. According to authorities, he had changed the color of his eyes with contact lenses and had undergone plastic surgery to change his appearance.

It was also reported that he was engagaed in importing and exporting glass lenses, crystals, and agricultural books and equipment. The minister also said that an investigation has been opened in Ecuador to find out who Porras was doing business with and who his contacts were.

Interpol has just confirmed that alleged drug trafficker Evaristo Porras will be taken tomorrow from Pasto to Bogota.

Zuniga Appeal Rejected

PA2909185189 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1733 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Septemer (DPA)—It was reported today in Bogota that the Colombian Government has rejected an appeal presented by Beatriz Rodriguez Zuniga's lawyer, who wanted her arrest for extradition purposes canceled. Rodriguez Zuniga is said to be an important Medellin Cartel connection.

Rodriguez Zuniga was arrested several weeks ago in Cartagena and, with the executive branch's consent, could be the second person extradited to the United States, part of the government's offensive against the drug mafias that started a month and a half ago.

On 6 September the alleged "financial head" of the Medellin Cartel, Eduardo Martinez Romero, was sent to the United States after Washington presented documentation to have him tried in an Atlanta court.

Drug Enforcement Administartion investigations report that Martinez Romero was a key person in the "washing" of approximately $1.2 billion the mafia obtained from the cocaine business.

The drug "barons" have publicly threatened to murder 10 judges for each Colombian extradited to another country.

Since Martinez Romero was sent to Atlanta there have been hundreds of dynamite attacks in different Colombian cities. These attacks are the cocaine cartels' direct response to the government's offensive against them.

Mayor on Antidrug Measures

PA3009030489 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0002 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Speech by Bogota Mayor Andres Pastrana Arango in Bogota—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. Every government, whether at the national, municipal, or any other level, has an obligation to guarantee the citizenry's peace and security, which represents the basis of an organized society. That has been my priority goal since I assumed my duties as mayor of Bogota, and I have fulfilled it by acting with the necessary force while making sure not to disturb the people's day-to-day activities in the least.

The 13th Brigade and the Metropolitan Police of Bogota have worked willingly and efficiently to fulfill this noble goal. I express the appreciation of the municipal authorities and the citizenry in general to their commanders, General Ramon Niebles and Colonel Nassim Janine Diaz, the officers, and the troops. They have carried out with exemplary dedication and energy the necessary actions—in perfect coordination with the mayor—to protect the people living in this city as much as possible.

The declaration of war issued by President Virgilio Barco, resulting from the defiant attitude assumed by forces outside the law, has had the expected effect in our capital—which is a synthesis of Colombia—because it is the center of our government branches, and political decisions related to the adoption of measures aimed at saving the nation at this time of great danger are made here. Bogota obviously has become the center of the tensions prevailing in the country.

We must withstand the avalanche of terror with courage, fully assured that with this struggle we are not only guaranteeing our future but also that of future generations. If we lose the struggle, it will also be lost for our children. We must fully realize that we are facing bitter days, perhaps without precedent in Bogota's history. Our joint actions with the Police and the Brigade forces have been intensive, especially those aimed at preventing criminal actions and at quickly helping those who have been affected by or have become victims in this wave of terrorism.

Since the assassination of Dr Luis Carlos Galan on 18 August, the Police authorities have recorded 43 dynamite attacks: EL ESPECTADOR, 2; banks 16; political headquarters 10; telephone and electricity centers 4; stores 11 Casualties and property losses: 4 deaths, 87 wounded; 4.6 billion pesos in property, machinery, equipment, and merchandise losses; and approximately 300 million pesos in damage to or destruction of vehicles.

Because of the current wave of terrorism, the civilian authorities of the special district of Bogota, the 13th Army Brigade, and the Metropolitan Police have pledged all their resources and personnel for intelligence, surveillance, and protection operations, and have achieved the following results to date: 18,320 terrorist telephone calls; 44,800 citizens searched; 11,216 persons arraigned before courts; 12,330 vehicles searched every day; 145 vehicles seized; 281 vehicles recovered; 177 motorcycles seized; 115 motorcycles recovered; 145 weapons seized; 17,153 rounds of ammunition seized; 165 kg of dynamite seized; 1 kg of explosives [pentolita] seized; 35 meters of fuse seized; 12 detonators seized; 93 search operations carried out; 279 searches for explosives carried out; 425 roadblocks set up.

Effective today, we will maintain 120 mobile Army and Police roadblocks. Tomorrow we will provide 200 new motorcycles equipped with communications equipment to the security forces and 1,200 additional men will be deployed throughout the city in intelligence activities. We will have 35 additional CAI's [expansion unknown] in operation before December. District administration officials have already earmarked approximately 3.3 billion pesos to equip our forces and thus ensure the citizenry's protection.

I am aware that some of the measures we must adopt will prove uncomfortable for many citizens, but no one would forgive the authorities if they did not act quickly and adequately; and no one will have the moral authority to protest if he does not abide by and efficiently support these measures. We lack many instruments but we will efficiently use those we have. It is almost impossible to achieve the complete protection of all, but if we all cooperate we will come closer to the goal.

Those of us who believe in community participation must call for it in times of need to build a wall to protect the citizenry's tranquility. The key to success is our insistence and steadfastness in this effort, and no one can avoid his share of the responsibility, which is necessary if we want to recover and defend our peaceful daily activities.

As your mayor, in whom you have bestowed your trust, and as a simple citizen, I urge you to join forces to rescue and defend, with strength and determination, the security of our capital. We must withstand the situation with a sense of calm but with the determination to help the mayor and the authorities so that they can help you. Each citizen must remain alert and sound the alarm when necessary to protect his neighbors. Help and report. Thank you and good night.

No Casualties From Attacks

PA2909130789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1213 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—The authorities have reported that four new terrorist attacks against the Tequendama Hotel parking garage, an oil storage room, and bank branches in Bogota and Cali amount to losses of more than 500 million pesos, according to preliminary estimates.

Intelligence organizations have revealed that two suspects were captured in the capital of Valle del Cauca Department following terrorist attacks that caused damage but no casualties.

A Bogota Metropolitan Police spokesman has reported that the first terrorist attack took place in the Tequendama Hotel underground parking garage. He said that a car bomb loaded with 20 kg of dynamite exploded in the parking lot. The shockwave caused heavy structural damage and destroyed 54 automobiles. Security guards and others at the site put out the ensuing fire. The situation was under control in a matter of minutes, the spokesman added.

In southern Bogota, antisocial elements threw an explosive device at a service station's oil storage room, causing structural damage. In the capital of Valle del Cauca Department, the National Police reported that unidentified antisocial elements exploded dynamite charges at bank offices in Las Villas and a Banco de Colombia branch. The shockwaves caused heavy damage but no casualties.

Two Explosions Rock Cali, Bogota

PA3009032389 Paris AFP in Spanish 0235 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota, 29 Sep (AFP)—Authorities have reported that the wave of terrorist attacks that is ravaging the most populous Colombian cities continued tonight with two other explosions, one in Bogota and the other in Cali.

One woman was injured in an action against the secondary school Gustavo Restrepo, in the south of Bogota, where a bomb made up of 3 kg of dynamite exploded after it was hurled by a young man.

The explosion severely damaged the front of the building and shattered the windows of 30 nearby homes.

In Cali, the capital of Valle Department, two motorcyclists hurled a bomb against a supermarket operated by a Family Compensation Fund. The explosion caused some material damage, but nobody was injured.

In the past two nights, Bogota and Cali have been the scenes of several dynamite attacks, despite strict security measures.

Terrorist Wave Affects Cities

PA3009151789 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1245 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] Bogota—A terrorist wave that shook the Republic's capital in the past few hours yielded four injured and heavy damage. On this occasion, the terrorists attacked four schools, three in the special district and the other in Cundinamarca Department.

The bombs, hurled by unidentified individuals traveling on motorcycles and in automobiles, damaged the Gustavo Restrepo and United States schools in Centenario neighborhood, the Juan del Corral school in Las Ferias, and the girl's lyceum of Cundinamarca, which is under the jurisdiction of the department's education secretariat.

Two minors, who were walking near the girl's lyceum, were injured and taken to a hospital from which they were later released. A strong explosion seriously injured a woman and a minor at the Gustavo Restrepo school. There was heavy structural damage. According to Cundinamarca State Education Secretary Samuel Ortegona Maya, the damage at the girl's lyceum will be assessed today to determine whether classes will be suspended.

The terrorist wave partially destroyed a branch of the Social Security Savings Bank in Primavera neigborhood and damaged the National Post Office branch in La Floresta, at the intersection of road 49 and 102d Street.

Meanwhile, there were two terrorist attacks in Cali the evening of 29 September that caused structural damage of about 100 million pesos. The first attack was against the Confandi [not further identified] facilities in El Paraiso neighborhood. An explosive device caused structural damage.

Minutes later, another bomb exploded at the Cardona store, at the intersection of 8th Avenue and 52d Street, in front of the Marco Fidel Suarez Aviation school, causing heavy damage but no casualties. In this regard, Metropolitan Police Commander Julio Navarro Franco said:

[Begin recording] [Navarro] An explosive device containing about 1.5 lb or 2 kgs of dynamite exploded in El Paraiso neighborhood at the intersection of 28th Avenue and 33d Street. The other device, which exploded at the Cardona store at 8th Avenue and 52d Street, contained about 3 kgs of dynamite.

[Reporter] Will political activities or other activities involving crowds be suspended in the next few hours or days?

[Navarro] Life must go on. [end recording]

Finally, Luis Carlos Serna Suarez, director of the Rio Frio municipal jail, was shot to death by unidentified individuals in that central municipality of Valle del Cauca Department. Serna, who was 36 years old, was shot five times as he was heading toward his residence on 5th Avenue and 12th Street. Also, 25-year-old Grisanto Arboleda Molag was killed in Galicia neighborhood, Bugalagrande Municipality.

Sep Bombings Total 54

PA0110192389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Last night the terrorists did not rest, but the bombing craze did diminish. A bomb exploded in a school and another one destroyed a CAI [Immediate Action Commando] center. The efforts of residents of

the Belen, Egipto, and Calendaria La Antigua areas in Bogota were buried when four kilos of dynamite destroyed the CAI center they had built during the year with the help of Corporacion La Candelaria and community participation. This immediate action center was architecturally different from the 31 presently existing CAI centers operated by the National Police.

[Begin unidentified male recording] This CAI center was built by the Corporacion La Candelaria and was to be inaugurated soon. [end recording]

Construction of the CAI center cost 2 million pesos and was also to be used as a tourist information center.

Two hours after the CAI center bombing, a bomb exploded in the Santa Catalina school in southern Bogota. It was a medium-sized bomb and partially destroyed the educational center. Losses are several million pesos.

[Begin unidentified female recording] This occurred because the police did not cooperate. Yesterday, a car stopped here three times and we called the police. The bomb was planted yesterday. The policemen came, but only stayed a short time. [end recording]

These new terrorist actions in Bogota increase the number of bombings [during September] to 54.

Government Initiates Talks With EPL Rebels

PA3009021389 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0020 GMT 30 Sep 89

[Text] While some people wage war, others are making peace. Yesterday, the commanders of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] met with Rafael Pardo, the presidential adviser for peace. The meeting was also attended by (Reinaldo Gary), a government adviser. The two government officials met in an EPL camp in Cordoba Department with Bernardo Gutierrez and Marco Jara, the EPL's spokesmen for the dialogue.

[Begin Pardo recording] This meeting is a part of the contacts that are being established in the framework of the government's policy for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC], the EPL, Quintin Lame, and the Revolutionary Workers Party. The idea is to find points of agreement and prepare a dialogue agenda that could lead to peace. [end recording]

While this was going on in Cordoba, Deputy Government Minister Jose Noe Rios and government adviser Ricardo Santamaria were meeting for the second time with FARC spokesmen Jacobo Arenas and Manuel Marulanda in Uribe.

[Begin Rios recording] We found a political disposition and that will lead us to believe we can continue talking. We looked for points of agreement, so as to find issues on which we can start working in the future. [end recording]

The two FARC leaders were accompanied by spokesmen of other rebel groups. The opinion of these spokesmen was sounded out to establish the possibility of initiating new peace talks.

ELN Demands Ransom for Spaniard's Release

PA0110131989 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0827 GMT 1 Oct 89

[Text] Bogota, 1 Oct (EFE)—The Colombian National Liberation Army [ELN] guerrilla movement, which kidnapped Spanish businessman Pablo Martin Berrocal almost 2 months ago in Quito, is demanding 1 billion pesetas ransom for his release.

Sources close to the rebel group, the only one that has not joined the government's peace process in Colombia, told EFE that negotiations for his release are being carried out in an unidentified border town.

Colombian guerrillas, disguised as policemen, kidnapped the 55-year-old businessman last 9 August at the hotel where Berrocal was staying in the downtown section of the Ecuadoran capital. The same sources stated that Berrocal's wife, Blanca Paradela, and a partner are in Colombia negotiating for the businessman's release directly with representatives of the ELN, a rebel group led by former Spanish priest Manuel Perez.

The ELN has not announced the motive for the kidnapping. Sources consulted with by EFE considered the possibility that the Colombian rebel group has only economic motives.

Berrocal owns a bullfighting ring in Quito and he participates with his brother, bullfighting businessman Luis Martin Berrocal, in La Sepulvedana transport company.

Neither the Colombian National Police nor the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), charged with the country's secret investigations, have any information on Martin Berrocal or his alleged presence in the country.

EFE has learned that representatives of Martin Berrocal, who went to Bogota in mid-September, did not get in contact with the Colombian authorities when they passed through this city.

The ELN, a Marxist-Leninist oriented group that has been involved in armed struggle for 25 years, has been characterized by its attacks on the Colombian oil enterprise and frequent kidnappings of newsmen and politicians of the country.

The group has been active along the Colombian border, especially areas that border Ecuador and Venezuela.

Government, M-19 Reach Mutual Agreement

Issue Joint Communique

PA0110214089 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 3-A

[Joint Communique issued by the Colombian Government and the 19 April Movement on 26 September in Bogota]

[Text] The National Government and 19 April Movement (M-19) report the following to the people:

1. Discussion and consensus groups, including participants from various national sectors, produced a number of proposals on three basic issues:

Coexistance, justice, and public order; socioeconomic and constitutional issues; and electoral matters.

2. As soon as the work of the discussion and consensus groups ended, a bilateral government-M-19 commission was established to draft an overall demobilization plan for the complete incorporation of M-19 members into Colombia's civilian and political life.

3. Once the discussion and consensus groups submitted their conclusions, the representatives of the Liberal and Social Conservative Parties, who are full members of the working group, agreed that the government and M-19 should first reach an agreement on the scope and implementation of such agreements before the working group discusses them.

4. The national government and M-19 Movement today reached an agreement on the proposals submitted by each discussion and consensus group. These points must in turn be discussed and approved by the working group during an upcoming meeting before they are made public.

5. As soon as basic agreements are reached by the working group, we will call a special meeting of working group members in Santodomingo, Cauca Department.

6. Once an agreement is reached, it will be formalized at a special ceremony to commit the national government, Liberal Party, Social Conservative Party, and M-19 to a great political pact for peace and democracy.

7. At the same time that this accord is signed, a plan to lay down arms and incorporate the M-19 into civilian life will be implemented in keeping with terms specified in a report drafted by the demobilization commission that will be released the same day.

8. The national government and M-19 are drafting a detailed plan on security mechanisms to protect the lives of M-19 members. We agree that a specific accord in this regard is essential for the overall success of the accords.

9. The national government and the M-19 reaffirm their willingness to help consolidate peace and democracy in the country and to achieve a political accord and the incorporation of the M-19 into civilian life by laying down their arms and participating in political activity.

10. To begin a discussion of this process, the government will submit to Parliament a draft pardon law during the 1st week of October at the latest.

Signed: Rafael Pardo Rueda, presidential adviser; Jose Noe Rios, deputy government minister; Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, M-19 commander general; and Antonio Navarro Wolff, M-19 commander

Statement on Peace Talks

PA0210041689 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Sep 89 p 10-B

[Statement issued by the 19 April Movement—no date or place given]

[Text] We have decided that:

It is now easier to remain on a war footing than to make way for peace. However, in a country torn to pieces by so many wars and divided among many powers, someone must make a start.

We entered this process knowing that our effort is partial, and that this is not the only path to peace.

Our first challenge is to do away with the Colombian people's skepticism, uncertainty, and feelings of helplessness.

We are aware that anything new or incredible always arouses misunderstanding and doubts. That is why our laying down of weapons may appear to be insanity or naivete.

However, we chose this path now because we are sure that the majority of Colombians need peace. We want to stop waiting for peace.

Not just any peace. Not the peace of intimidation, silence, or loneliness.

We need an active country, one that expresses its feelings, struggles for its ideals, and freely agrees on solutions.

This time we have decided to dismantle our military structures to gain greater political efficiency. We will not surrender a single weapon to the government. Our weapons represent a history of struggle, commitment, and sacrifices. They are the heritage of the M-19 [19 April Movement] and all its fighters. It is for these fighters that we have agreed to a dignified future.

Our greatest victory does not lie in negotiating with the government, but in conquering fear and putting away our weapons to face the risks of peace.

We have agreed to a referendum. Once again, after 32 years, the Colombian people will have a means of deciding on the path of renewal. We pledge to defend the peaceful contents of this renewal to the end.

The entire country should express an overwhelming yes to peace.

The referendum provides us with the minimum guarantees for the exercise of political activity. We will become a legal movement, and by participating in the elections, we will gradually recover, along with the Colombian people, that democratic tool that has been so vilified by the oligarchy's meanness.

We know that the majority of citizens' hands are clean. With them we will imbue politics with new values and customs.

There are reasons to believe that peace is possible.

We have not been nor are we alone.

Unknown to many, yet no less important because of this, the work done at the peace tables brought social and political forces together. In intense and fruitful efforts, agreements and positive solutions have been arrived at in response to the country's major problems.

At the peace talks, we found retired military men willing to help find a solution to the armed conflict. We found in the business sector an opportunity to coordinate efforts for regional progress. We have found in the Armed Forces attitudes of respect, which we hope will be expanded and intensified.

The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board has various initiatives for a dialogue and a truce that open new possibilities, because something new is always born of the continuous search for a political solution. These days, peace demands much innovation.

The war against drug trafficking is a central conflict in this government. We disagree with the way in which it is being waged, tearing sovereignty and justice to pieces and condemning us to helplessness.

The M-19 believes it is necessary to do away with drug trafficking because of the harm it has caused to the health and dignity of humankind, because of the resulting violence and corruption, and because of the economic distortions it generates.

However, we have proposed overall, autonomous solutions. We have consulted congressmen, businessmen, and drug traffickers themselves to propose a solution that the country should know about and discuss.

1. To Begin With: To appoint a commission that examines the willingness to negotiate with the main leaders involved in drug trafficking, provided they decide to suspend attacks.

2. Bases for Negotiation: The talks would be started with those who are willing to assume the following commitments:

a. Total dismantling of the infrastructure to process and transport drugs.

b. Financing of development projects in drug-growing areas, which will permit the progressive substitution of crops.

c. Financing of an industrialization plan to provide technological and agricultural marketing assistance.

d. Financing of a campaign to eliminate internal consumption of drugs.

e. Dismantling of the drug traffickers' armed organizations.

f. Drug traffickers agreeing not to participate in political activities as a group.

3. Guarantees for Those Who Make These Commitments:

a. That the infrastructure voluntarily handed over be assigned to local and international welfare and social development organizations.

b. Guarantees of security for those who promise to dismantle their armed organizations so that, once this is implemented, the drug traffickers' weapons can be disposed of in a similar manner as that used for the weapons of demobilized guerrilla groups.

c. The suspension of all requests for extradition. Pardons for those who fulfill the pledges that emerged from this negotiation.

d. A multinational inspectors' office to supervise the process of dismantling the drug-trafficking economy and the development of the negotiation.

Peace must be the country's leading democratic enterprise.

We should all be shareholders, and make peace radiate from all our institutions, activities, and human relations.

Determination and resources are requirements, as well as a government that will not only negotiate but lead the way to peace by making concerted efforts to solve problems promptly and efficiently.

We need a state that will respect and enforce respect for human rights, guarantee and promote citizen involvement, accept the pluralism of a diversified nation—which cannot be limited to the same parties of the past—and a state that will neither apply nor tolerate social or political euthanasia as a false solution for insurgency and inequalities.

In sum, Colombia can no longer be governed in an exclusionist and proud manner devoid of solidarity. That is what is killing us.

Let us all quicken our pace toward a new, participatory, tolerant, and democratic way of life.

The best speech for peace will be the events that take place; the best publicity for peace will be its achievements, large and small, national and local, daily, individual, and collective.

For total peace.

We are going to work toward total peace; in other words, we want coherence between the democracy we are seeking and our means of fighting for and building it. Coherence between what is said, what is done, and how it is done.

We want clean peace without deceptions. We want the promises resulting from the citizen's protests, social struggles, and political agreements to be fulfilled.

We will make our own peace in a creative manner. We will find in our people and in the resources of our land and culture the solution of our needs and hopes. We will turn our diversity into a source of wealth and unity. We Colombians are people of initiative and survival. And these attributes, when used for building and for collective undertakings, work miracles.

We want solidarity in Colombia. Instead of representing and defending labor unions, ideologies, creeds, parties, ethnic groups, and social classes, we must behave as Colombians and recover the ties of unity, support, and cooperation in a nation in which there is room for all of us.

That is the Colombia We Want because We Love Colombia.
From the M-19
Its Command: Carlos Pizarro Leongomez, general commander
Antonio Navarro Wolff, Otty Patino, German Rojas Nino

Two M-19 Members 'Arrested'

PA2909190189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1715 GMT 29 Sep 89

[Text] M-19 [19 April Movement] spokesmen Francisco Marino Vargas and Jose Domingo Tobon were arrested [detenidos] yesterday in Cauca Department as they were going to an Indian meeting.

The case of the two M-19 militants is still not clear. Only 2 days ago, M-19 signed a demobilization agreement with the government.

Our reporter Hernando Salazar discussed the case with the M-19 spokesman in Santo Domingo, Cauca Department over the phone.

[Begin recording] [Salazar] According to the M-19 spokesman, the two M-19 militants were unarmed and heading to a meeting with Indian and peasant leaders of Jambalo, Cauca Department. M-19 militant Francisco Marino is the brother of Hipolito Blanco, the M-19 spokesman in Santo Domingo, with whom we talked.

[Blanco] They were arrested by the Army and taken away in a helicopter. We do not know our comrades' whereabouts. This type of behavior hinders the good development of the peace process.

[Salazar] Although the Army denied the report in Popayan yesterday, the M-19 General Command met this morning and decided to leave the fate of its two spokesmen in the hands of the government. [end recording]

Paraguay

Rodriguez Says U.S. To Lift Trade Restrictions

PY2909193589 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Sep 89 p 8

[By special correspondent Nestor Desiderio Franco]

[Text] "In Paraguay we should all have equal opportunities and the same broad freedom. We will not have privileged people or grant any privileges." President Rodriguez said this while on board the plane that brought him back from the United States, where he participated in the UN General Assembly.

Asked about his meeting with U.S. President Bush, Rodriguez said: "The U.S. President honored me by inviting me to his table at a dinner with 120 other guests. President Bush asked me to sit at his table where we talked about our present political situation, our economic policy, and the foreign debt."

Rodriguez said: "I asked him if the organizations with which we maintain relations could help us consolidate not only our democracy but also our economic situation."

Asked if he requested any preferential treatment, Rodriguez said: "I did not ask him for preferential treatment, only to lift the existing barriers. He answered that he would immediately take the appropriate measures, that it would be the first thing he would do, adding that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will grant more support and will give us better quotas for our exports."

Commenting on his meeting with President Sarney, Rodriguez said that his colleague told him that Brazil is willing to continue to work jointly with Paraguay to eliminate all problems. "President Sarney has always been interested in our country and in bilateral cooperation. Brazil is favorably predisposed toward Paraguay, that is very good."

"Just think of our foreign debt. Brazil has granted us the privilege of paying only 30 percent of our debt with them. Just think of the benefits if we had the money to pay the 30 percent of our debt with Brazil, which totals $400 million, we would save $280 million," Rodriguez said, and added that he will meet again with Sarney at Itaipu this year. He did not give any date.

Argana on Loan, Drugs, Meeting With Baker

PY2909215889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Sep 89 p 8

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana on 28 September announced that the World Bank will grant Paraguay a $200-million loan to be used to repurchase its

foreign debt. He also charged that the FRG has promoted drug addiction. "If it were not for FRG-made products like ether, acetone, etc, marijuana and coca would still be harmless plants," he said.

Argana made these remarks aboard a Paraguayan Airlines jet that brought the delegation headed by President Andres Rodriguez back to Asuncion. Commenting on a meeting that he held with his Spanish counterpart Fernando Ordonez in New York, Argana said that the foreign debt was among the issues that they analyzed. He added: "We are considering the possibility of solving the problem through a financial accord, but not with private banks because they charge high rates of interest and commission. This is dangerous for us, and we may end up being fleeced."

Argana added that negotiations are being held "with the IMF and the World Bank, with IDB support. The World Bank will grant loans to us for approximately $200 million with which to buy our debt notes."

Argana and Fernandez Ordonez also analyzed the drug issue. Said Argana: "We are trying to put an end to the production of drugs, but drugs are consumed in the United States and Europe. We should not forget the countries like the FRG, which provide all the chemicals that are necessary to turn cocaine and marijuana into cocaine hydrochloride [as published]. We should recall that without ether, acetone, and hydrochloric acid, coca and marijuana would still be harmless plants."

"It would be interesting to implement a plan to repress cultivation and consumption, and also to control the chemical laboratories that provide precursors, the sale of which must be controlled," Argana said in connection with FRG-made products.

Argana added that a massive campaign against alcoholism should be implemented in our country. "I worked in the courts for several years and I know that 80 percent of the crimes that are committed in our country are caused by alcoholism," the minister said.

He went on to say that there are not enough jobs in our country and that to compensate for the lack of jobs it is necessary to sponsor programs for the creation of microenterprises. "In Paraguay, we have either doctors or unqualified manpower. There are no qualified personnel and yet this is what we need," he stressed.

Concerning a meeting that he held with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in New York, Argana said that Baker was deeply interested in the Paraguayan situation and that the U.S. official expressed optimism over the current Paraguayan process.

"Among other things, I told him we want social democracy. That is why I am stressing the need for qualified personnel," he said, adding that "there are no lines of credit for microenterprises."